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Eight killed in stampede at temple in Haridwar

30 injured in the incident; rumour about a snapped electric line led to panic among devotees along a stairway; rescue efforts continued for hours; magisterial probe ordered

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Eight people were killed and 30 injured in a stampede at the Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar of Uttarakhand on Sunday morning.

Officials said the stampede occurred around 9 a.m. after a rumour of a snapped electric line spread panic among the massive crowd that had gathered along the stairway route of the temple, located 1,770 feet above sea level on the Sivalik Hills, the southernmost mountain chain of the Himalayas.

Tragic steps: Police and SDRF personnel at the site of the stampede in Haridwar on Sunday. PTI

People from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand, aged between 12 and 60, were among those who died.

A video showed a massive crowd stranded between barricades at a point on the stairway, with many carrying children and gasping for breath, with no space to move at all. The devotees were seen frantically asking for help as the crowd swelled from all directions.

While some managed to climb the wall along the stairway, many ran over others while make way for themselves.

Slippers, puja items, and clothes were seen strewn on the temple premises after the administration cleared the way.

Rescue and relief

Pramendra Singh Dobal, Senior Superintendent of Police, said that teams from the police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were rushed to the spot immediately, and the rescue efforts continued for hours.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who expressed grief, announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each to the injured. He met those admitted to a hospital and assured them of all possible help from the government. "The news of a stampede at Haridwar's Mansa Devi temple is extremely saddening. SDRF, local police and other rescue teams are on-site and engaged in relief and rescue operations," he wrote on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences. "Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," he said.

Haridwar District Magistrate Mayur Dixit ordered a magisterial inquiry. The investigation team will be headed by a Sub-Divisional Magistrate who has been asked to submit a detailed report on the stampede in 15 days.

Ravindra Puri, president of the Mansa Devi temple trust, announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh each to the injured.

NEARBY

Cumulative storage in dams at 80% capacity

MYSURU
The revival of the southwest monsoon in most parts of Karnataka during the fag end of July has resulted in a surge in inflow to major reservoirs, which have collectively attained over 80% of the total capacity. » PAGE 6

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INDIA wants SIR stopped

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Sunday urged the Election Commission (EC) to refrain from "institutional arrogance", and stop the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, saying it has effectively become a process of establishing citizenship.

Speaking at a joint press conference, along with Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha, and Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Nilotpal Basu, Congress Rajya Sabha member A.M. Singhvi said it was not an issue of "political obstinacy" or "institutional arrogance". "I humbly urge the Election Commission... it is not a matter of political obstinacy or institutional arrogance. Please reconsider it... everyone is urging you," Mr. Singhvi said.

Stating that the SIR had become a process of establishing citizenship, he asked if the EC was authorised to do so. The Congress leader cited a 1995 SC judgment to say that detailed legal provisions should be followed to take away anyone's citizenship.

Some 10 elections had been held after 2003 and till then, all the ID cards had been valid throughout. "In that case, what was the urgency in initiating the process in June-July, link it to an election," he asked, adding that the exercise could have been undertaken after yet another election (in Bihar). The attempt to squeeze the entire process within two-three months was resulting in several errors, he said.

Deletion concerns

Mr. Bhattacharya said the EC's "self-congratulatory" statements were confirming the INDIA bloc's apprehensions.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

91.69% voters submitted forms for SIR in Bihar: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday said 91.69% of electors on the 2025 voter list in Bihar had submitted enumeration forms as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and these voters will be included on the draft list to be published on August 1.

Of the 7.89 crore registered electors as on June 24, over 7.24 crore had submitted enumeration forms indicating overwhelming participation, the poll body said in a statement.

This, in effect, means the names of 65 lakh voters registered in the July 2025 list would not make it to the draft list which is scheduled to be published on August 1. Of these voters, 22 lakh were deceased, 36 lakh had permanently shifted or were not found, and 7 lakh were enrolled at multiple places, the poll body said.

The EC listed the various aims of the SIR, such as inclusion of every eligible voter, participation of all political parties, and others.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Maharashtra halts Ladki Bahin aid for 26.34 lakh people

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government said on Sunday that it had temporarily suspended monthly payments under the Ladki Bahin Scheme to 26.34 lakh beneficiaries whose eligibility for the payment will have to be verified.

"The benefits for 26.34 lakh applicants were temporarily suspended starting June 2025 while 2.25 crore eligible beneficiaries received the payments," State Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare said on X, adding that the suspended beneficiaries' eligibility would be verified by the respective District Collectors.

She said even men had applied for the scheme, which is intended to provide financial support of ₹1,500 a month to women from low-income groups. "Payments will resume for those found eligible after the verification while action will be taken against fraudulent beneficiaries who availed themselves of benefits through improper means," Ms. Tatkare said.

Many ineligible applicants were getting benefits of multiple schemes, while some families had more than two beneficiaries, she said, adding that the action was based on data shared by the Information Technology Department.

The Ladki Bahin scheme was launched in August 2024 ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election held in November. The scheme was considered one of the reasons for the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance's victory in the election. However, after the election, the government had started scrutiny of the beneficiaries and ineligible beneficiaries were suspended regularly.

Rishabh Pant and the art of conquering pain

After emerging from a life-threatening car accident, the wicketkeeper-batter certainly is more mature; he picks his battles with greater thought than previously, but hasn't gone against his natural grain

R. Kaushik
MANCHESTER

GETTY IMAGES

For Rishabh Pant, pain had become a way of life for more than 12 months. A constant, if uninvited companion. A grim reminder of what might have been, a reminder too of how lucky he was to have emerged from a life-threatening single-car accident with all his faculties intact.

Pant's horrific road accident of 30 December 2022 is too fresh in memory, too raw for everyone even remotely associated with him, to bear detailed repetition. Suffice to say that to be able to play competitive, professional cricket within 16 months of that terrible episode was tribute to his resilience, to his unmatched determination, to his unyielding desire to make the most of a second chance that only the very lucky get.

If Pant doesn't quite feel the pressure of a cricket match as much as anyone else, it's not without good reason. To him more than anyone else, Keith Miller's famous comments revolving around pressure in Test cricket will resonate readily. The dashing Australian all-rounder fought in World War II against the Germans, flying night missions over Germany and Occupied France as he targeted Nazi rocket bases.

Flight Lieutenant Miller once told Michael Parkinson, the legendary English television presenter, broadcaster, journalist and author, "Pressure? There's no pressure in Test cricket. Real pressure is when you are flying a Mosquito with a Messerschmitt (a German twin-engine fighter and attack aircraft) up your arse!"

Even before his outlook-altering accident, Pant was a free spirit, an unpredictable mass of the unconventional even by the most unorthodox standards. No one quite knew what to expect when he had the cricket bat in his hands. He could dead-bat with felicity, sure, but it was when he put it to more attacking use that he commanded attention. Compelled it. He would sometimes be dismissed doing the most exasperatingly outrageous, just as he would drop jaws with his sheer audacity, with his ability to think out of the box, and to implement that thought process with total disdain for the usual, for reputation, for pedigree.

No different

Pant 2.0 is no different. A lot more grateful and thankful for his second coming, so to say, but no less uninhibited or fearless. He certainly is more mature, he picks his battles with greater thought than previously, but he hasn't gone against his natural grain. He hasn't become conservative, careful or circumspect - all on the cricket ground, in front the stumps, lest we should confuse ourselves - because then, he wouldn't be Rishabh Pant, would he?

And therefore, he reacts with complete equanimity to both 'Stupid, stupid, stupid' and 'Superb, superb, superb'. He has an unabashed admirer in Sunil Gavaskar, the deliverer of both iconic lines but also completely in awe of the package that Pant is.

Twice in this Test series, Pant has overcome the pain barrier with a nonchalance that is uniquely Pant. In the third Test at Lord's, he hurt his left index finger badly on day one, trying to stop a wildly swinging (after it passed the stumps) Jasprit Bumrah delivery that pinged him badly before speeding away for four byes. That was on the first day of the game; it must take something really bad for Pant to shed his wicketkeeping gloves and retreat to the dressing room and cede wicketkeeping responsibilities to Dhruv Jurel, but Pant the batter was back the next day with India on 107 for three in reply to England's 387.

Pant didn't just bat, he batted like the Pant the world knows and loves. With chutzpah and authority and positivity and aggression, without a care for the throbbing pain that was exacerbated by every movement of the willow. He charged and smashed, he fell and pulled or swept, he danced like a ballerina, he made even the hard-nosed, implacable MCC members populating the Long Room cluck and wonder at what he was made of.

For two and a half hours, he toyed with England's best, helping K.L. Rahul add 141 until a brainfade moment designed to put Rahul, on 98, back on strike in the last over before lunch on day three, threw England a lifeline and ended the Pant show on 72. Two days later, on the final morning with India needing 135 more for victory, Pant walked out at No. 6 but it was clear that the injury was troubling him even more. He wrung his left hand in discomfort during each of his 12 balls, one of them from Jofra Archer swatted through mid-on as if a pesky fly had got in his eyeline, before Archer had the final say with a peach that knocked his off pole out.

That should have been it, really, but as it transpired, that was merely the teaser, the trailer before the main act. A trailer that showcased his gumption and spunk, which expressed itself with far greater magnitude at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Pant recovered sufficiently from the finger injury in the week-long break between the third and the fourth Tests to start in Manchester in his designated stumper-batter avatar. Alongside Sai Sudharsan, he built on a decent start on Wednesday's first day of the Test with a stand of 72, archetypal Pant, until suddenly, he decided that it was time to ramp it up. As Chris Woakes bustled in, Pant fancied a reverse sweep. It's a shot has he has pulled off with impunity numerous times, it's also a shot that has precipitated his downfall more than once, but when has that ever stopped him?

Painful blow

This time, Pant managed an inside-edge that crashed into the outer part of his right foot, just below the little toe. England missed the edge and burnt a review trying to prise him out, even as Pant was hobbling and wincing and biting his lip in sheer agony. He tried gamely to carry on but couldn't even put the slightest weight on the offending appendage.

When the physio peeled off his sock and then his shoe, it was clear why - there was a swelling the size of a ping pong ball, capped by a smattering of blood. Pant's Test match should have ended then and there - at 37, retired hurt.

Driven off the field in a golf buggy, Pant struggled into an ambulance and went to a nearby hospital for a scan which confirmed the worst. The next morning, day two, when the team bus trundled into Old Trafford, Pant was nowhere to be seen. Of course, you said. Why would he?

Pant wasn't in his hotel room, moping and brooding and cursing his luck. He wasn't sleeping off the aftereffects. He was back in the hospital for a painkilling injection, after which he went to the dressing room for a few warm-up drills. When Shardul Thakur was sixth batter dismissed, he was stunned to see the stocky figure of his admirable mate making the impossibly arduous walk down the steps towards the middle. Thakur waited respectfully, admiringly, inside the field of play, for Pant to enter the ground. He patted him on the head like an older brother passing on his benevolence, then joined his colleagues on the balcony to watch the little fella smash an Archer slower ball over mid-wicket for six and check-drive a cover-drive off Ben Stokes to the boundary to bring up the most astonishing of half-centuries.

The warrior

Why, Rishabh, you wanted to ask. What were you trying to prove? To whom? Until realisation dawned that he wasn't trying to be a hero. He wasn't attempting what to others might have seemed outlandish. He wasn't seeking to impress anyone. He was just being Rishabh Pant, because this is exactly the kind of thing Rishabh Pant would do, day after day if need be. To bat with an injured index finger is remarkable; to do so with one leg barely available to him, in a manner of speaking - defies logic, beggars belief, stretches the imagination, doesn't it?

When he was dismissed, bowled off-stump again by Archer, Pant limped off to a thunderous applause. Stokes, himself the ultimate warrior, recognised and warmly congratulated his kindred spirit. More than 20,000 people rose as one, the Indian balcony could hardly hide its emotions, and Mohammed Siraj reprised the Thakur act of 59 minutes earlier, with another warm pat of the helmet. Pant retreated to the sanctum sanctorum, changed into shorts and practice shirt and started fooling around. Just Pant things, you know.

Cricket history is replete with numerous instances of mind over matter, of going above and beyond the call of duty. Followers of Indian cricket will remember Anil Kumble, apparition-like, bowling at the ARC ground in St John's in 2002, his broken jaw wired and held in place by bandages, and snaring Brian Lara leg before. That was scary, surreal, goosebumpy; Kumble bowled because he could, and because he was waiting out the time to board his flight to Bengaluru where he would soon have surgery to fix the broken jaw. What to do with the time? Well, how about 14 overs in unbearable pain? How about the scalp of one of the greatest batters of all time?

For 23 years, Kumble has ploughed a lone heroic furrow. There were others before and after him - Rahul Dravid getting up after being floored by a bouncer to make an unbeaten 144 in the same series at the Bourda Oval. V.V.S. Laxman orchestrating two remarkable run-chases within a couple of months in 2010, at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo against Sri Lanka and at the PCA Stadium in Mohali against Australia when Pragyan Ojha managed what even ill-treating selectors hadn't - make him angry.

Sachin Tendulkar braving crippling pain in his back to nearly, nearly, take his team to the most famous of victories against Pakistan in Chennai in 1999. But they weren't in the same Kumble league for bravery and/or foolhardiness. Until now. In Pant, the 10 for 74 hero has an equally extraordinarily pig-headed champion. Kumble and Pant, chalk and cheese, an odd couple, tied together by the bond of stretching, nay, smashing, the pain barrier.

THE GIST

Even before his outlook-altering accident, Pant was a free spirit, an unpredictable mass of the unconventional even by the most unorthodox standards

Twice in this Test series, Pant has overcome the pain barrier with a nonchalance that is uniquely Pant

To bat with an injured index finger is remarkable; to do so with one leg barely available to him, in a manner of speaking – defies logic, beggars belief

State all set to get 750 vehicles under PM-eBus Sewa scheme

Bengaluru, Udupi are not eligible under it; State, however, wants Centre to provide financial assistance to RTCs

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Karnataka has been sanctioned 750 electric buses under the Centre's PM-eBus Sewa scheme, but the State government has been urging for direct subsidy instead of the public-private partnership (PPP) procurement model.

In response to a question raised by Rajya Sabha member D. Veerendra Heggade, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said in Parliament that the Central government had approved 750 e-buses for Karnataka under the scheme. "As per the demand received from the State of Karnataka, a total of 750 electric buses have been sanctioned for all 10 eligible cities of the State under the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme. Bengaluru and Udupi are not eligible as per the scheme's guidelines," he said.

Launched on August 16, 2023, the scheme aims to strengthen public transport systems by deploying 10,000 electric buses across India through a PPP model.

Launched on August 16, 2023, the PM-eBus Sewa scheme aims to strengthen public transport systems by deploying 10,000 electric buses across India through a PPP model. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Deployment of electric buses under the scheme is subject to completion of work related to associated infrastructure (behind-the-meter power and civil depot infrastructure). A total of 7,293 buses have been sanctioned so far out of which 6,518 buses have been tendered," Mr. Sahu said. In Karnataka, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, and Mysuru have each been allotted 100 buses while the remaining five eligible cities have been sanctioned 50 buses each.

PPP model criticised

However, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has criticised the current PPP approach. He said that it was far more straightforward to procure and operate buses during the UPA era.

"Earlier, the Centre contributed 50% of the cost while the State and transport corporations shared the remaining 50% equally," Mr. Reddy recalled. "But now, under the NDA government, the subsidy is not given directly to States. Instead, private companies that win tenders receive the funding, own the buses, and are responsible for drivers and maintenance. The State-run corporations are only responsible for deploying conductors and paying the operator on a per-kilometre basis," he added.

Mr. Reddy has urged the Central government to revert to the earlier model by directly providing financial assistance to State transport corporations for a more transparent and efficient roll-out.

14,750 e-buses

Karnataka plans to introduce a total of 14,750 electric buses during the financial year 2025-26. A senior official from the Transport Department said that these buses would be procured through a combination of schemes, including PM-eBus Sewa, PM e-DRIVE, and other externally aided initiatives.

In addition to the e-buses, the State intends to add 1,000 diesel buses under the gross cost contract model, which involves hiring private operators to run State-owned buses.

City-wise allotment

City	Buses
Belagavi	100
Hubballi-Dharwad	100
Kalaburagi	100
Mangaluru	100
Mysuru	100
Shivamogga	50
Tumakuru	50
Ballari	50
Vijayapura	50
Davangere	50
Total	750

Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

City has highest number of rowdies registered in State

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

As of June 2025, Karnataka had a total of 39,698 rowdies. Of these, Bengaluru accounts for 6,249, more than three times the number in Kalaburagi, which has the second-highest count at 1,934, according to data accessed by *The Hindu*.

Out of the total, 23,016 are classified as 'active rowdies' while the remaining have had no recent cases.

Bengaluru and Kalaburagi also lead in terms of 'active rowdies', with 6,210 and 1,475 individuals, respectively. They are followed by Bengaluru South (formerly Ramanagara) district with 952, Hassan with 883, and Tumakuru with 856.

In response to the growing concern over rowdyism and its impact on law and order, the Karnataka police have pledged to crack down on such elements through stringent measures.

Measures implemented

Three major measures have been implemented Statewide: invoking the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA), applying the Goonda Act, and initiating externment proceedings against rowdies. Additionally, individual districts have adopted their own strategies to curb the menace.

For instance, in Hubballi-Dharwad, Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar has been conducting frequent rowdy parades and externing repeat offenders. This effort is reflected in the numbers. The police in the region externed 84 rowdies in 2025, the highest among all districts.

A file photo of the State police headquarters in Bengaluru.

Total 23,016 'Active rowdies' in State

Bengaluru	6,210
Kalaburagi	1,475
Bengaluru South	952
Hassan	883
Tumakuru	856

Across Karnataka, the police have externed 1,800 individuals over the past three years.

In contrast, the Bengaluru police invoked KCOCA against more than 90 individuals in 2024, resulting in their imprisonment. Former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda had launched a crackdown on 'out of view' (OV) rowdies to improve monitoring. OV rowdies are those who have evaded routine police checks, or gone off the radar. However, technically, individuals listed in rowdy sheets are not supposed to be classified as OVs, since their purpose is to enable constant surveillance. The OV list is typically used for those involved in thefts.

The Bengaluru police traced over 750 OV rowdies between 2023 and 2025, significantly improving surveillance and enforcement.

S. Girish, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Division), told *The Hindu* that monitoring at the station level has improved significantly. "We maintain A, B, and C lists of rowdies to ensure better tracking. Crime constables and sub-inspectors coordinate regularly, and report updates to the inspector," he said.

The 'A' list is for rowdies active for a longer duration. The 'B' list consists of rowdies committing crimes out of the jurisdiction in which they are listed as rowdies. A 'C' list is maintained to monitor budding rowdies.

The police in Bengaluru also maintain preventive action records by collecting formal undertakings from rowdy sheeters.

In other districts, more traditional methods are being used. Tumakuru Superintendent of Police Ashok Venkat said his department was consistently acting on warrants, and had reinforced the role of beat officers to keep rowdies in check.

"We are monitoring rowdies regularly and have initiated externment proceedings against habitual offenders. Although invoking the Goonda Act is a complex process, we are committed to using it where necessary," he said.

Habitual offender held for stabbing two, including policeman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chamarajpet police have arrested a habitual offender and three others for allegedly stabbing two people, including a head constable, when they tried to intervene and resolve a dispute between the accused and his former wife on Friday. The injured have been identified as Santhosh, a head constable at the Chamarajpet police station, and Mohammed Shafiullah, a relative of the accused's former wife .

According to the police, the accused, identified as Tabrez, recently got out of prison after serving time in a murder case registered with the Tilaknagar police. After his release, he approached Muskan, his former wife and Shafiullah's niece, who is now married to another man.

On Friday, Tabrez showed up at Muskan's house, where Shafiullah was also present, and began to argue with Muskan's husband. When Shafiullah tried to intervene, Tabrez allegedly attacked him.

Meanwhile, Santhosh was having dinner at a hotel nearby, when he overheard the commotion. He then arrived at the spot and tried to pacify an armed Tabrez, when the latter allegedly stabbed Santhosh on his wrist before fleeing from the scene. Following this, the Hoysala police reached the spot and took the injured to a hospital. They are reportedly out of danger.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down Tabrez and arrested him along with two of his relatives, and also held a minor on the charge of abetment to the crime.

I-Day flower show to honour Kittur Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lalbagh Botanical Garden is all set to host the Independence Day flower show from August 7 to 18. This time, the show will be set around the theme of Kittur kingdom, honouring its famous queen Chennamma and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna, who was the army chief of the kingdom.

A huge floral fort of Kittur, made out of roses and chrysanthemums, will be the central attraction at the Glass House along with the model of a horse-mounted Chennamma and standing model of Rayanna.

The Veera Rani Kittur Chennammaji Samadhi Sthala, the final resting place of Chennamma located in Kittur, will also be recreated florally for the show. A part of the fort will be recreated in a vertical garden form in front of which, models of Lavani dancers (the art form prominent in north Karnataka) will also be displayed. On the other side of the glass house, a horse mounted Rayanna and the scene of British hanging him to death will be depicted.

A file photo of arrangements being made for the Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh. K. MURALI KUMAR

Around the Glass House, 60 boards of 4x8 ft dimensions will be put up to narrate the story of Kittur kingdom, including its origin, famous rulers and its eventual decline.

"We have chosen to honour Kittur Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna for this year's Independence Day flower show. Along with the floral representations, we will put up eight big outdoor screens at different places in Lalbagh on which historical records of Chennamma and Rayanna will be broadcast. This will include pictures, film clips, and documentaries made about them," explained M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director, Parks and Gardens, Horticulture Department.

While the exact quantity of flowers needed for each model is still being calculated, the official said that 100 types of flowers would be used for this year's show. It includes some regular flowers like roses and chrysanthemums which are used annually, along with special flowers like dahlias from Ooty, varieties of orchids, bromeliads, and canna lilies.

The Independence Day flower show in 2024, around the theme life and contributions of B.R. Ambedkar saw fewer footfall when compared with the ones before that. Officials had attributed it to weather factors and long-weekend travel. Around 9.07 lakh people visited the show, bringing the department a revenue of ₹3.44 crore.

This year, around 10 lakh to 11 lakh people are expected to visit the show.

Former gram panchayat member hacked to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old former gram panchayat member was hacked to death allegedly by a gang of armed men over a property dispute on Kanakapura road under Sathanur police station limits on Saturday.

The incident occurred when the deceased, Nanjesh, was having dinner at a roadside eatery along with his friends. The assailants barged into the hotel and attacked Nanjesh before fleeing from the scene, while his friends and other customers ran helter-skelter to save themselves.

According to the police, Nanjesh was a resident of Honnagani Doddi village and a former member of the Achalu Gram Panchayat in Kanakapura taluk. A senior police officer said that around 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, Nanjesh was with his friends at the eatery, when a group of four or five armed men barged in and attacked him with lethal weapons before fleeing from the spot.

A few people rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries later.

The Sathanur police have registered a case of murder, and two of the accused were detained on Sunday.

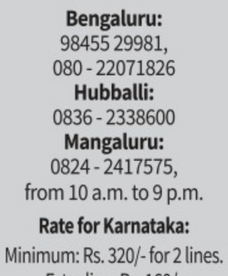
Preliminary investigation revealed that Nanjesh had been involved in a quarrel over a property just four days before the murder.

The accused arrested are being questioned, and further investigations are under way to track down the ones who are on the run.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

14th ANNIVERSARY



NAVALPAKKAM RAJAGOPALAN
(Retd Sirsilk Ltd)
D.O.B: 10.11.1916 D.O.D: 28.07.2011
LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY
Sons: Raghavan, Krishnamuruthy and Sampath.
Daughters in Law: Sudha, Sandhya and Jaishree
Daughters: Radha and Kalyani
Sons in Law: Selvakumar And Suryanarayanan
GrandChildren and Great Grandchildren
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IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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DEATH

Tara Murali

October 2, 1949 - July 26, 2025

Tara Murali, 75, well-known architect who was also known for pursuing public causes and promoting civic rights, consumer protection, heritage conservation, and environmentalism, died at her home in Chennai on Saturday, July 26, 2025. Thoroughly secular and modern in outlook, she had varied interests: music, literature, environment, heritage, consumer action, and sport, especially table tennis.

Tara is survived by her husband, N. Murali, Director at *The Hindu* Group of Publications and President of The Music Academy; their son, Krishna Murali; their daughter, Kanta Murali; three grand-children, and her elder brother, Ramesh Pattabhiraman.

The cremation will take place at the Besant Nagar Crematorium at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, July 28.

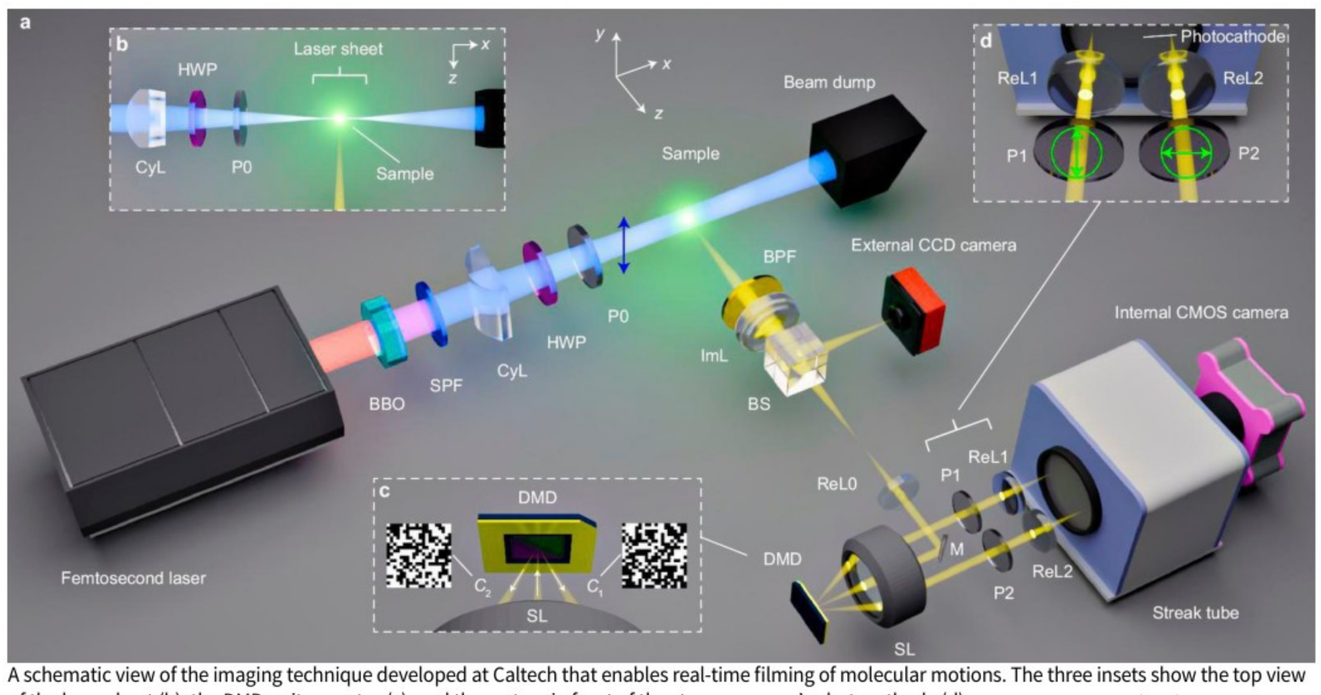
New microscope reveals molecular jostling faster than ever before

Conventional microscopes are invasive and have limited fields of view. Other microscopes still can't distinguish individual molecules, which are around tens of angstroms in size. A team from Caltech has now found a way to indirectly detect molecules by observing their interactions with light and tapping into Brownian motion

Unnati Ashar

More than a century ago, a 26-year-old Albert Einstein explained Brownian motion in one of four papers he published in his *annus mirabilis*, the miraculous year, called because these papers shot him to fame. Brownian motion is the random jittering of small particles in a fluid, caused because they're constantly colliding with molecules around them.

Now, scientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have developed a breakthrough imaging technique that enables real-time filming of these molecular motions. Their findings were published in *Nature Communications*.



A schematic view of the imaging technique developed at Caltech that enables real-time filming of molecular motions. The three insets show the top view of the laser sheet (b), the DMD as it operates (c), and the system in front of the stream camera's photocathode (d). NAT COMMUN 16, 5019 (2025)

'Surreal experience'

Conventional microscopes are invasive and have limited fields of view. Other microscopes still can't distinguish individual molecules, which are around tens of angstroms in size (1 angstrom = 0.0000000001 m). To compare, one human hair is about a million angstrom thick. The Caltech team has now found a way to indirectly detect molecules by observing their interactions with light. Their technique also taps into the Brownian motion of particles.

Using the device they have reported that they can see down to tens of angstroms. "It was a surreal experience to visualise molecular sizes in real-time at the angstrom scale," Yogeshwar Nath Mishra, who co-led the study when at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and who is now an assistant professor at IIT-Jodhpur, said.

"Even more remarkable was the realisation that no existing technique can achieve this level of detail."

Need for speed

The more massive a particle, the slower its Brownian motion. "[It] is like watching how much a spinning object twists after being nudged by light. Small molecules spin fast and scramble the light more. Big molecules spin slowly and keep it aligned," Lihong Wang, director of the Caltech Optical Imaging Laboratory and who supervised the study, said. So by measuring how fast a molecule changes the properties of light, they could determine its size.

The Egyptian-American chemist Ahmed Zewail from Caltech was the first to measure particle motion at super-short time scales. This work allowed his team to observe chemical reactions as they happened for the first time. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1999.

"While traditional techniques often rely on time-consuming point-by-point scanning, our approach captures the scene in a single shot," Wang said. "We also achieved imaging speeds of hundreds of billions of frames per second, making it possible to observe molecular interactions in unprecedented slow motion."The device is thus the world's fastest single-shot microscope.

"Finally, unlike [traditional methods] which require extensive sample preparation and often damage the specimen, our method is non-intrusive, enabling direct, *in-situ* measurements," Wang added.

"Some of the most exciting features of this microscope include its wide-field imaging capability, offering an image area of a few square centimetres, an order of magnitude larger than conventional microscopes," per Mishra. "To the best of our knowledge, our work is the first ever to achieve the feat of single-shot 2D molecular sizing."

Playing jigsaw

They tested their microscope using a molecule called fluorescein-dextran. Fluorescein is a food colouring dye. Fluorescein-dextran is used to monitor blood flow, drug delivery, and tissue and cell labelling. These fluorescent molecules come in the form of powders. The scientists blended them with water and used clean pipettes to pour drops of these samples into cuvettes (clear, short, rectangular tubes for holding liquid samples).\Then they turned to ultrashort pulses from a laser. These lasers aren't unlike those used in LASIK and cataract surgeries. The laser sheet slices through the sample in the cuvette. As it does, the sample emits light that falls on an array of small square mirrors making up a digital micromirror device (DMD).

> The key is the use of the streak camera to detect dynamics in nanoseconds. This is within the actual lifetimes of the molecules and wouldn't be possible with slow detectors or photodetectors
>
> **BASUDEV ROY**
> ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT IIT MADRAS

The DMD's job is to shape the light beam. Researchers use software code to tilt each individual mirror in this light-crafter depending on the corresponding pixel in the input image.

"Imagine you're trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle, but instead of having all the pieces, you only have a few of them – and surprisingly, you can still figure out what the full picture looks like," Wang said.

This idea underpins the team's technique, which can reconstruct the full picture from very few measurements provided the structure is repetitive.

The DMD converts the transient scene into a random jigsaw pattern from which researchers can extract information about the full picture.

The light finally passes through a streak tube that converts the photons in light to electrons.

A phosphor screen collects these electrons as they sweep across it and creates a pattern of streaks. The streak pattern reveals the pulse duration from which scientists can infer the sizes of the molecules.

Ensemble of molecules

"It is an interesting piece of work. The key in this work is the use of the streak camera to detect dynamics in nanoseconds. This is within the actual lifetimes of the molecules and wouldn't be possible with slow detectors or photodetectors," Basudev Roy, an associate professor at IIT Madras who works on super-resolution microscopy and wasn't involved in the recent study, said.

The size of molecules measured using their technique concurred with previous estimates.

"It still sees an ensemble of molecules inside a detection region – it still doesn't see a single molecule yet. But the dynamics indicate chemical compositions and also chemical reactions," Roy said.

"Surprisingly, we found out that the technique also works in gas phases. ... Initially, we assumed it would be challenging to apply [it] in turbulent environments, such as within a flame," said study co-lead Peng Wang of Caltech.

The team observed black carbon nanoparticles in flames through the microscope. "Our data in the gas phase turned out to work excellently and the molecule size matches ... experimental observation well," Peng said.

This new imaging technique could help better visualise processes and transform biomedical research, disease detection, drug design, and nanomaterial fabrication, among others.

(Unnati Ashar is a freelance science journalist. unnati_a@ymail.com)

THE GIST

The more massive a particle, the slower its Brownian motion. Small molecules spin fast and scramble the light more. Big molecules spin slowly and keep it aligned. So by measuring how fast a molecule changes the properties of light, researchers could determine its size

The new approach captures the scene in a single shot. Researchers achieved speeds of hundreds of billions of frames per second, making it possible to observe molecular interactions in slow motion. The device is thus the world's fastest single-shot microscope

This new imaging technique could help better visualise processes and transform biomedical research, disease detection, drug design, and nanomaterial fabrication

BIG SHOT

Humboldt penguins at the Punta San Juan reserve in Peru, where a decline in the population of guano birds, sea lions, and penguins is currently alarming scientists. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Deep-brain stimulation: nudging neurons

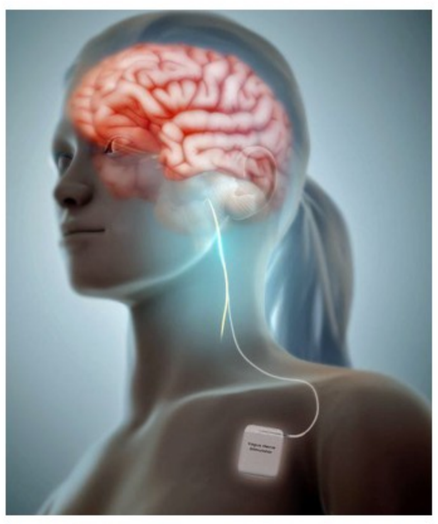
Vasudevan Mukunth

Deep-brain stimulation (DBS) is a medical technique where doctors implant electrodes deep inside specific areas of the brain to treat certain disorders. These electrodes are connected by wires to a small device, similar to a heart's pacemaker, which is usually placed under the skin in the upper chest. The device sends controlled, mild electrical impulses to targeted brain regions, helping adjust abnormal brain activity or chemical imbalances.

DBS is most commonly used for movement disorders, especially in people with Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, and dystonia, whose symptoms no longer respond well to medication. It has also been approved for some psychiatric conditions like obsessive-compulsive disorder, and is being studied for severe depression and epilepsy.

Technically, DBS works by modifying how groups of neurons talk to each other. Many of these disorders involve faulty electrical signals in the brain. Delivering electrical pulses through DBS can interrupt these erratic signals, helping reduce symptoms such as tremors or muscle stiffness. The amount and pattern of stimulation can be precisely adjusted by doctors or, to some extent, by patients themselves using external programmers.

One advantage of DBS is that, unlike brain surgery that destroys tissue, its effects are reversible: if you turn off the device, the stimulation stops. While the exact ways DBS works are still not fully understood, it is believed to help normalise disrupted brain circuits at both the cellular and network levels. More than 1.6 lakh people worldwide have received DBS.



The vagus nerve can be stimulated to manage epilepsy. MANU5 (CC BY-SA)

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Property guidance value revision on the cards as market value soars

Market rate is 10 times that of the guidance value or even more in several locations in districts abutting Bengaluru

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

A revision of the guidance value of properties in Karnataka is now in the offing, given the huge gap between the current guidance value and the prevailing market value of properties. The move also comes at a time when the Stamps and Registration Department has reported lower revenue collection owing to multiple reasons.

The difference between the guidance value and the market value is particularly stark on the city's outskirts, where demand for agricultural land for real estate development has been huge.

The market value is a whopping 10 times that of the guidance value or even more in several locations in districts abutting Bengaluru such as Chickballapur, Bengaluru South (formerly Ramanagara), and Bengaluru North (formerly Bengaluru Rural) districts. The department's information gathering has also found a difference of 60% between the guidance value and market value for sites in several urban centres.

The last revision of the guidance value in the State came in October 2023, while the department's mandate allows it to revise the guidance value annually.

The GIS-based guidance value revision will offset the gap in revenue collection, and the valuation process is set to begin soon, sources in the Revenue Department said.

To reduce the gap: The Stamps and Registration Department has found a difference of 60% between the guidance value and market value for sites in several urban centres. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Curbing black money

"The proposed revision will not only help increase revenue but also curb the circulation of black money in the market. Black money gets exchanged whenever there is a huge difference between the guidance value and market value," said the source. Further, sources said that farmers could benefit from a higher guidance value during the acquisition of their agricultural land or a better value for their land in any other transactions.

Discussions on

Sources said that discussions are under way to determine the extent of guidance value enhancement. "In the city areas, the rate of enhancement for sites, houses, apartments, row houses, and villas is being discussed along with the quantum to be enhanced for agricultural land."

It is learnt that fresh criteria could be adopted this time to consider the quantum of enhancement of guidance values for properties located closer to national and State highways, district roads, and 80-ft roads. The discussion is also about the enhancement of guidance value for apartments – whether uniform rates should be applied or if it should be based on the prevailing market rate in the area.

Digital stamps

Meanwhile, the department is also looking at increasing the revenue from the proposed implementation of digital stamps that will prevent under-valuation in use of stamp paper in the non-registrable documents category. With the Cabinet recently approving the A khata policy in which private roads leading to sites/apartments will be declared as public roads, lakhs of properties will get A khata, which could result in a spurt in transactions, sources said.

The department is hoping for increased revenue collection when the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department releases draft khatas for about 85 lakh properties this year and urban local bodies release draft khatas for about 30 lakh properties.

Why the revision now

The difference

2025 - April to July 21	2024 - April to July 21
Total documents registered: 7.19 lakh	Total documents registered: 7.23 lakh
Revenue collected: ₹6,601.99 crore	Revenue collected: ₹6,861.92 crore
Target: ₹8,730.64 crore	Target: ₹6,210 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The slump in the revenue collection from the Stamps and Registration Department in the first quarter has stumped the State government as the total collection till July 21 in this fiscal year has been ₹6,601.99 crore – about 4% lower than the collection in the corresponding period of last fiscal.

In the first four months of 2024-2025, the department had collected ₹6,861.92 crore by registering 7.23 lakh documents. The revenue collected was ₹651 crore above the target. However, this year, the revenue collected is far less than the target of ₹8,730 crore. The number of documents registered is about 7.19 lakh this year, which is about 4,500 documents less than those registered in the corresponding period last year.

According to officials, policy changes brought in last year with the introduction of e-khata had affected property registrations and revenue collection. The non-issual of B khata in 83 villages in Bengaluru Rural had prevented registration. The insistence on e-khata before registration of apartments in multi-storeyed complexes in Bengaluru and surrounding rural areas has also slowed down registrations.

"Earlier, properties in 83 villages were registered under the 'others' category and apartments were registered without any khatha," a source in the Revenue Department explained. The registration of properties has also come down with the e-khata being made mandatory, and registration of properties in illegal layouts has reduced due to this.

Sources said that another reason for document registration showing a decline in Bengaluru was that sites in layouts would be first registered, following which khatas would be issued. However, now, before securing an e-khata from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), approval from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has been made mandatory, it has been pointed out. Sources also pointed out that illegal plans and khata bifurcation have been stopped by the BBMP, which were earlier being registered under the 'others' category.

On its diamond jubilee, scientists call for digital transition of VITM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), a landmark scientific institution located in Bengaluru, celebrated its diamond jubilee on Sunday. The museum was inaugurated on July 27, 1965. During the event, people from the scientific community called for a digital transition of the museum.

"We live in a digital world, and we need to keep changing with the times. We want the VITM to become more and more advanced digitally as the digital world does not have the constraints that are present in the physical world. With a technology like virtual reality (VR) glasses, students can experience unknown worlds, walk on Mars, or take a deep dive into the nano world. The possibilities are infinite in the digital world, and it should be expanded to make students realise how wondrous science is," said Govindan Rangarajan, director of the Indian Institute of Science, while speaking at the event.

New look: Visitors at the renovated 'Fun Science Gallery' of the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Experiencing museums

He also said that physical experience at a museum is equally important. "Such a museum is critical these days as all youngsters are immersed in their phones and do not have tactile stimulation. When they come here and actually see the exhibits, feel them, and work on them with their own hands, it is a different experience for this generation. They will get inspired to choose a career in science and mathematics while interacting with these artefacts. We should transition to the digital world while also keeping the physical world (intact)."

The renovated 'Fun Science Gallery' was also inaugurated as part of the celebrations on Sunday. The gallery includes practical applications related to basic physics and science, the level of which is taught in high school and college. It also has puzzles and illusions for students to solve and experience.

B. Venkataraman, chairman of the VITM's Executive Committee also stressed on digital transition. "This museum has been a beacon of scientific knowledge, innovation, and inspiration since its inception. Over the years, it has fostered love for science and technology among millions, becoming a dynamic space where learning meets creativity and imagination. The way forward is digital, and in this era of transition, we need to delve deeply (into the digital world) and make sure that the mission continues," he said.

Woman murdered by husband and son in Kanakapura taluk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old woman was murdered allegedly by her husband and son over a property row at Chakanahalli in Kanakapura taluk on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Gowramma, while the accused Shivaraju, 50, and Siddaraju, 28, are on the run. Efforts are on to track them down.

According to the police, Gowramma was separated from her husband and son, and had been living with another man for the last 10 years.

Property dispute

Gowramma wanted to sell the property she had inherited from her parents, but Shivaraju and Siddaraju objected to it, thinking she would not share the money with them, the police said. However, she was adamant and decided to sell the property with the help of her live-in partner, the police said.

After learning about it, the father-son duo on Saturday followed her to Kurubaradoddi and allegedly hacked her to death before fleeing from the spot, according to the police.

The Kanakapura Rural police have registered a case of murder.

No let-up in rain in Kodagu

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The hilly district of Kodagu continued to be battered by incessant rains, with widespread damage to property reported during the last 48 hours.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast more rains for the district and issued an orange alert.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 28		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	09:01	SET 21:29
TUESDAY, JUL. 29		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:47
RISE	09:48	SET 22:03
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 30		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:47
RISE	10:34	SET 22:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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Su From So: How an unheralded Kannada film broke marketing norms to set box office records

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Three days ago, not many had heard of *Su From So*. Today, it has shaken the Kannada film industry, reiterating the importance of quality content and prompting film-makers to reassess their promotional strategies. *Su From So* was released amid the big buzz around *Saiyaara*, the Hindi film that has revived the romance genre in Bollywood, and the entertaining *F1*, which had crossed the ₹100-crore mark in India, and was still a hot property in Bengaluru. Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* was expected to score big too.

However, three days after its theatrical release, *Su From So* has conquered every hurdle to break box office records. "Three days ago, *Su From So* was an unknown project. Today, you have made it one of the most exciting films of the year," Raj B. Shetty, who co-produced the film, said in a social media post.

Banking on content: A still from the film *Su From So* directed by J.P. Thuminad.

The film produced by Raj B. Shetty is making waves with minimal promotion and exceptional word-of-mouth recommendations

Big ticket sales

The film created history when 1,27,000 tickets got sold on the ticketing app BookMyShow on Saturday. No Kannada film had seen sales on this scale in a single day on the online platform. On Sunday, the film had 550 housefull shows across India, a terrific number considering the prolonged lull in the Kannada film industry in 2025.

Raj, apart from co-producing the movie, plays a prominent character in the film, but his role was kept a secret. The director of acclaimed films like *Ondu Motteya Kathe* and *Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana* could have been the face of the film, but chose not to hog the limelight of a movie filled with fresh faces in Kannada.

"We know that you are tired of pre-release interviews and reactions from celebrity shows. We aren't doing them for our movie. We want you all to be our honest promoters. Watch our film and spread the word," the actor-director had urged, as he announced paid-premiere shows in Shivamogga, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Bengaluru.

Bharath Sudhama, co-founder of film marketing company The Big Little, feels Raj pulled off a coup with his statement. "Saying you won't promote a film is itself a promotion. It means that you are telling the audience you are completely confident about your content. People walk into the theatres wanting to like the movie because of the bold step from the makers," he analyses. "It's like Upendra saying his film is only for the intelligent ones (*Bhuddivantarige maatra*)."

After avoiding the customary YouTube appearances, *Su From So* makers banked on their content to do the talking. The hilarious trailer and the peppy dance number, called 'Dank Anthem', had given the movie some advantage.

Post its release, the outstanding word-of-mouth recommendations have bolstered ticket sales. "We are getting requests for more shows," Raj told reporters. On Sunday, 72 early-morning shows (before 9 a.m.) were added in Bengaluru theatres, which is an unprecedented development.

A word of caution

Bharath says the industry must be cautious and not see this low-key promotion strategy as a formula. "Minimal promotions might not work for another movie because it may not garner exceptional word-of-mouth in the initial phase. Every film team has to find a unique option to suit its content," explains Bharath.

Just like *Kirik Party*, *Kantara*, and *777 Charlie*, it is a team from the coastal Karnataka region that has resurrected a struggling industry with a refreshing subject aimed at entertaining the family audience. *Su From So*, directed by popular Tulu theatre artist and film actor J.P. Thuminad, is a rip-roaring horror comedy set in a village in Dakshina Kannada.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Mobile towers to be installed in certain areas of Chhattisgarh

4,000 State-run BSNL is working on a plan to install 4,000 new mobile towers in Naxalite-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, the Minister of State for Telecom and Rural Development Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said on Sunday. PTI

Number of polio cases in Pakistan this year despite global efforts

17 Three more cases of polio were detected in Pakistan, raising the countrywide tally to 17. Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues have slowed progress. PTI

Losses suffered by Himachal Pradesh since monsoon started

1,500 In ₹ crore. Since the onset of monsoon in the State on June 20 till date, Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses of over ₹1,500 crore, officials said on Sunday. So far, 88 people have died and 35 have gone missing in rain-related incidents. PTI

Number of persons evacuated in Turkey due to wildfires

3,604 A wildfire broke out in a forested area between the Gursu and Kestel districts of Bursa, home to much of Turkey's auto industry. Some 1,765 people in Bursa's Kestel district were evacuated, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Yumakli said. PTI

Number of employees to be laid off by TCS this year

12,261 India's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is set to lay off about 2% of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How is India preparing against GLOF events?

How many Glacial Lake Outburst Flood events has Nepal witnessed in recent times? What are the two most prominent types of glacial lakes found in the Indian Himalayan Region? How is the National Disaster Management Authority mitigating risks associated with GLOF events?

EXPLAINER

Safi Ahsan Rizvi

The story so far:

On July 8, Nepal experienced a catastrophic Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) event which caused a flash flood along the Lende river, flowing from Tibet to Nepal, and washed away a China-built friendship bridge. The bridge had serviced the 10-year old inland container port at Rasuwagadhi in Rasuwa (north of Kathmandu). The catastrophe is also reported to have made four Nepalese hydro-power plants along the Bhote Koshi river unusable, obliterating 8% of the country's power supply. With rising temperatures and subsequent glacial melt, the increased risk of GLOFs is threatening life and property in the higher Himalayas.

Do trans-boundary watersheds diminish possibilities of early warning?

While Chinese authorities have as yet refrained from confirming the cause, most Nepalese scientists and officials confirmed a GLOF event in Tibet, where a supra-glacial lake had burst, diminishing its surface area to 43 hectares from 63 hectares a day before. Nepalese officials were quoted lamenting in local media that neither did the Chinese authorities provide an early warning, nor was there an established system of doing so, despite a recent increase in supra-glacial lakes on the Tibetan side.

Hours later, on the same day, another GLOF event occurred at a moraine-dammed lake in the northern part of the Mustang district in Nepal (north-west of Kathmandu). Two months before, two glacial lakes in the Humla district (far-north corner of Nepal) had witnessed significant GLOF events, while in 2024, a GLOF in the Solukhumbu district had destroyed the Thame village in Nepal, the base camp for Mount Everest climbers. The need for trans-boundary collaborations in setting up early warning protocols seems paramount, given that Nepal has lost many lives and much infrastructure in successive GLOF events.

Similar events have impacted Nepal regularly, including the GLOF in Cirenma Co, a glacial lake, in Tibet in 1981, which released 20 mcm of water raising the Bhote Koshi river by 30 metres. Several decades later the same lake was reported to have rejuvenated and was rated high-risk. Other significant events include the Digi Tsho GLOF event in 1985, and the Tama Pokhari GLOF event in 1998. In response, Nepal has conducted risk mitigation works on the Imja Tsho and Tsho Rolpa lakes by drawing down water levels through artificial channels, a challenging task at heights above 5,000 m, and has further plans to target half a dozen more at-risk glacial lakes.

What is the nature of GLOF risk for India?

As per India's National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is home to 11 river basins and 28,000 glacial lakes. There are two prominent types of glacial lakes found in the IHR. The first are supraglacial lakes, formed in depressions on glaciers from meltwater, highly prone to melting in the summer months. The second are moraine-dammed lakes, formed by meltwater at the toe/snout of a glacier, dammed by loose debris or ice-cores, making them prone to sudden failure.

Definite risk: The south-end of the Shako Cho lake (5,200 m) in north Sikkim. The south-end shows the weak debris that forms its moraine-dam. NDMA

Almost two-thirds of GLOF events are triggered by ice avalanches or landslides, and the remaining due to excessive meltwater pressure on weak moraine dams and earthquakes.

With 2023 and 2024 being the hottest years on Earth, extreme temperatures in smaller geographies have been higher, thereby causing more glacial melt in certain pockets, making some glacial lakes highly risky.

In addition to rising heat, is the problem of scale. 7,500 glacial lakes are situated in India, with most above 4,500 metres in height, hence approachable for surveys only during a short window in the summer season. There are almost no weather and water monitoring stations in these regions due to inaccessibility, lack of sustainability and cost, leaving this growing risk largely unmapped.

The only credible means is measuring growth in surface area via remote sensing over periods of time, a measure which is post-facto and provides little by way of risk assessment or early warning of any sort.

Additionally, vulnerability of the immediate geography is critical to determining the exact nature of risk. This includes damage to homesteads, livelihoods, biodiversity, bridges and hydro-power projects along rivers that relay GLOFs downstream. The South Lhonak GLOF in 2023 in Sikkim wiped out the $2 billion and 1250 MW generating Chungthang dam and also intensified the flash flood causing massive silting downstream. Since then, the Central Water Commission has found that the Teesta riverbed has risen several metres, significantly reducing its carrying capacity and increasing the chances of its banks overflowing.

Besides the Sikkim GLOF, one of the most damaging events in recent times was the Chorabari GLOF in 2013, which turned into a cascading disaster accompanied by cloudbursts and landslides, known as the Kedarnath catastrophe – causing hundreds of casualties and billions in infrastructure damage.

How can India reduce GLOF risk?

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has markedly accelerated its efforts to manage these increasing risks. With respect to mitigation, it has initiated a proactive shift from mere post-disaster response to risk reduction through its Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR). This national coordination effort brought together related central scientific agencies, academic and research institutions, and States/UTs to study, monitor, warn, and mitigate GLOF risk in India. As a result, the central government finalised its first national programme of $20 million, prioritising 56 at-risk glacial lakes. The list has now been expanded to 195, categorised into four risk levels. Following the expected award of the 16th Finance Commission for the period FY2027 to FY2031, there are plans to scale up this programme, significantly.

Objectives of this programme are five-fold – hazard assessment of each at-risk lake; installing Automated Weather and Water Stations (AWWS); establishing Early Warning Systems (EWS) downstream; mitigating risk by drawing down water levels or building flow through retention structures; and community engagement, an essential element of risk reduction. Under the programme, States where glacial lakes are resident were encouraged to take the lead in sending scientific expeditions to 40 of the highest at-risk lakes in the summer of 2024.

One of the critical parameters in the exercise was to encourage Indian technology, systems and scientific expertise, one of which is the science of SAR interferometry – the art of analysing micro-changes in slope stability (upto a centimetre) using remote sensing satellite imagery as high as 10-metre resolution. The near-absence of usage of this scientific method to predict GLOFs and landslides is an identified gap that needs to be plugged through this programme. Another significant gap is the absence of well-resourced Indian foundations and innovative technology providers in the business of risk reduction in the Himalayan cryosphere.

What is status of mitigation efforts?

Several multi-institutional expeditions returned with success stories, across J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh with a couple of light-hearted tales for their archives. One such expedition lost its way in bad weather, and another had to leave behind an expedition member in the village as security so that the rest of the expedition did not pollute the sacred lake by entering its holy waters. These episodes were evidence of the critical need for community engagement, to integrate the local community in expeditions and the need to convince residents of the credibility and sincerity of the exercise.

The successful expeditions conducted bathymetry to assess the volume of water in the lakes; used Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) to understand the existence of ice-cores under moraine-dams, a key reason for dam breaks; and performed UAV and slope surveys of surrounding land/ice forms. Monitoring stations were installed at two lakes in Sikkim, which relay weather and water data every 10 minutes, with a daily dose of pictures of both ends of the lake and its shoreline. In subsequent summers, States will be installing more such systems, thereby overcoming an oft-repeated data-gap in the IHR cryosphere. In the absence of automated early warning mechanisms, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) deployments in high reaches have been oriented towards the role of manual early warning. After the monsoon this year, States/UTs are gearing up for another round of expeditions.

Safi Ahsan Rizvi is an IPS officer and adviser to the NDMA.

THE GIST

- As per India's National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is home to 11 river basins and 28,000 glacial lakes.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has markedly accelerated its efforts to manage these increasing risks. With respect to mitigation, it has initiated a proactive shift from mere post-disaster response to risk reduction through its Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR).
- One of the critical parameters in the exercise was to encourage Indian technology, systems and scientific expertise, one of which is the science of SAR interferometry.

EDUCATIONPLUS

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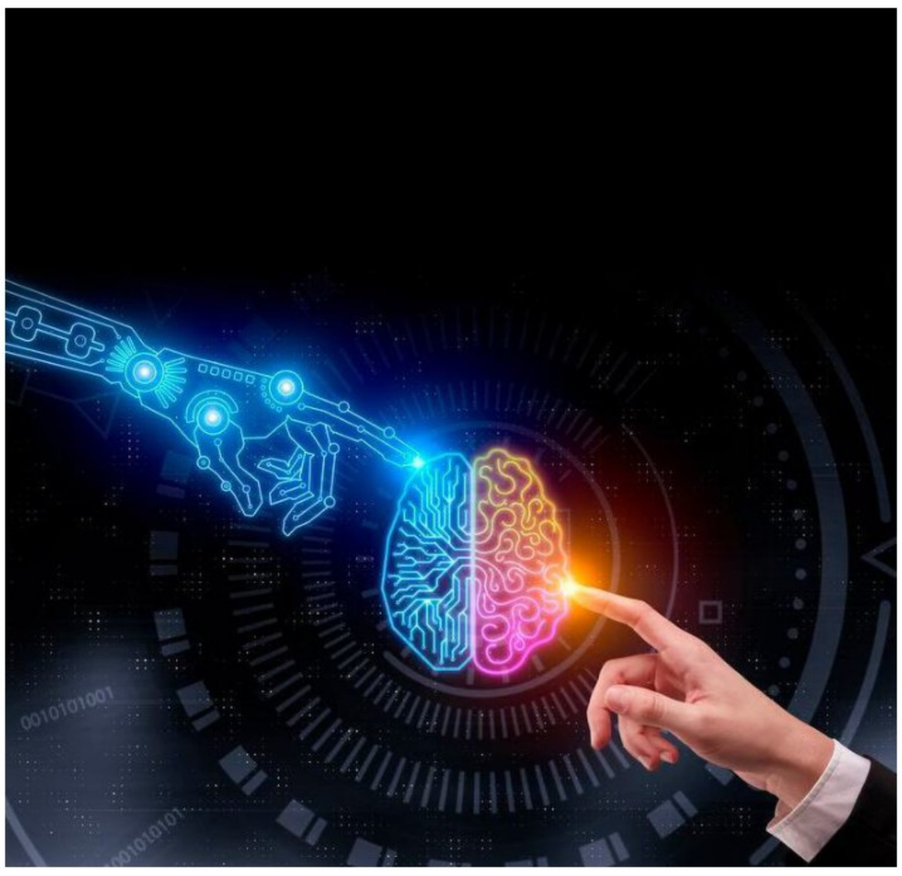
Keeping science credible

While AI can process vast datasets, it cannot fully interpret context, nuance, or intent. Hence human oversight of AI-generated warnings is essential in reviewing research papers.

Nishchay Shah



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The scientific research ecosystem is expanding rapidly. According to a June 2023 article in WordsRated, over five million scholarly articles were published annually as of 2022. The number continues to rise driven by the global increase in research institutions and journals and, more critically, by the "publish or perish" culture that compels researchers to produce and publish findings quickly.

Publication pressure

Rising misconduct at the institutional level is closely tied to shifting academic priorities. Many institutions now focus heavily on increasing publication output, citation counts, and rankings, often at the expense of quality and ethical standards. Studies show that publication pressure is a strong predictor of research misconduct. Early-career academics, in particular, may resort to unethical behaviour under institutional pressure for high output. This overemphasis on metrics can undermine meaningful scientific contributions and compromise the integrity of research.

Traditional peer review, long regarded as the gold standard for quality control, is struggling to keep pace with the volume and sophistication of modern misconduct. Editorial staff and peer reviewers, often overburdened and under-resourced, may lack the tools or time to detect refined forms of fraud or manipulation. This challenge is compounded by the rise of paper mills or organisations that mass-produce fake research for profit. These groups exploit vulnerabilities in the publishing system, flooding journals with fabricated data, manipulated images, and illegitimate manuscripts.

Generative AI adds further complexity. While AI can support legitimate research, it also enables the creation of highly sophisticated fake studies, making detection even more difficult. As a result, even top academic institutions are not immune to the growing wave of retractions and scandals.

In this high-pressure academic environment, retractions are increasing at an alarming rate. In 2023, India recorded 2,737 retractions, the third-highest total globally after China and the U.S. When adjusted for publication volume, India also ranks among the top five countries by retraction rate, highlighting the scale of the problem. According to a November 2023 article in *The Hindu*, between 2020 and 2022, retractions in India increased 2.5 times compared to 2017-2019, driven by plagiarism, data fabrication, and fake peer review. In 2024, several Indian institutions came under scrutiny, resulting in multiple retractions.

Hybrid system

To detect fraud at scale, AI-powered tools are being adopted across the research ecosystem. These technologies can flag plagiarism, image manipulation, and potential paper-mill activity, providing real-time analysis that helps institutions catch compromised research early. AI's capacity to process vast datasets has significantly enhanced detection capabilities. However, AI cannot fully interpret context, nuance, or intent. Algorithms may flag false positives, miss subtle fraud, or struggle with complex scientific content. Hence, a hybrid approach, combining AI with human oversight, is emerging as the most effective solution.

A hybrid system that blends AI with human judgement offers the best defence against research fraud. AI excels at scanning large volumes of data and flagging potential issues. However, the true value of this system is realised when AI-generated alerts are assessed by human experts. Humans bring critical thinking, contextual insight, and interpret complex or ambiguous cases. This partnership ensures that AI-generated warnings are carefully evaluated, reducing the risk of errors and adapting to new patterns of misconduct as they arise. Human reviewers also provide a safeguard against algorithmic bias, ensuring systems evolve with changing fraud tactics. This synergy between machine efficiency and human expertise builds a more resilient, adaptive framework for maintaining research integrity.

It is critical for institutions and funding agencies to invest in ethics education and set clear guidelines for responsible research. Early-career researchers and Ph.D. students should receive training in transparency and accountability. Publishers, too, must invest in both advanced technologies and skilled editorial teams to ensure that only authentic research is published. As scientific publishing continues to grow, safeguarding research integrity requires greater vigilance and innovation.

A hybrid AI-human approach allows institutions to address misconduct more effectively, overcoming the limitations of AI alone. Ultimately, the credibility of science depends on our shared commitment to transparency, authenticity, and ethical conduct at every stage of research.

The writer is Group CTO and EVP, Products and AI, Cactus Communications.

Identify your interests

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE

Nandini Raman

I am in Class 12 (CBSE - Science with Biology). I am interested in a career in wildlife conservation but how do I go about it? Anna

Dear Anna,

Do well in your Class 12 board exams, especially Biology, as it will form the basis for your undergraduate studies. Courses to consider are B.Sc. Wildlife Biology, B.Sc. Zoology, B.Sc. Botany, B.Sc. Environmental Science, B.Sc. Forestry, B.V.Sc. (Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry) or B.Sc. Biotechnology/Genetics. Check the curriculum, faculty, and research opportunities. Some prominent institutions in India for wildlife-related studies are the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun; National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru; the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal; and the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. Look at the websites for admission-related information, entrance exams and eligibility criteria.

To enhance your career prospects, a Master's degree in a specialised area is recommended. Some options include M.Sc. in Wildlife Science, Wildlife Biology and Conservation, Forestry (with specialisation in Wildlife Management), Environmental Science (with focus on Biodiversity and Conservation) or Conservation Biology. Potential job roles are a wildlife biologist or researcher, conservation biologist, forest officer, environment educator or outreach specialist wildlife veterinarian, policy analyst and so on.

I completed my degree in EEE in 2020. I am not interested in working as an engineer or investing more time in higher studies. I am interested in social service. How can I make a career in it? Gopika

Dear Gopika,

Social service is a broad field. You need to identify your area of interest. Some options include the education sector (working with underprivileged children or adult literacy programmes), healthcare industry (public health initiatives or creating health awareness and access), environment (sustainable development, climate change advocacy or conservation), Human Rights (advocacy for marginalised groups, legal aid awareness, working for disability rights), and so on.

Gain experience through volunteering and internships, and build connections. Look up NGOs, social enterprises, and government agencies that align with your interests. Websites like GiveIndia, Volunteer for India, and local NGO directories can be helpful. Consider short-term courses or certifications in areas like Project Management, Social Work/Development, Communication and Advocacy, Monitoring and Evaluation.

I have done a PG in Social Work and am doing an internship. I am not interested in this field, but feel guilty because my family has invested so much in my education. My passion was to be a pilot, but I did not meet the height requirement and couldn't afford the course fee. I am now 25 and yearning for aviation. Name withheld

While respecting your family's investment and feelings is important, your long-term happiness and career satisfaction are a priority. Take another look at the requirements for being a pilot, especially specific height regulations of different aviation bodies (both Indian and international) to see if there is any way you can make the cut. Research different flight schools and training programmes. Costs can be significant so research scholarships and financial aid or modular training programmes, which may be more cost-effective.

Are you willing consider other careers in the aviation sector such as Air Traffic Controller, Flight Dispatcher or Operations Officer, Airport Manager, Aviation Safety Officer, Cabin Crew, Aviation Ground Staff (Engineering or Maintenance) or Aviation Training and Education?

Please meet a professional career counsellor and get a profile test done to assess your skills, interests, and values, and explore potential paths that align with who you are now. This will also help you navigate the emotional aspects of this decision. Also have an honest and open conversation with your family about your feelings and explain that, while you appreciate their support, your internship has shown you that social work might not be the right long-term fit. Emphasise your desire to find a fulfilling career where you can thrive.

I finished B.Sc. Maths a year ago. What are the opportunities? Anishar

Dear Anishar,

If you are interested in higher studies, consider a Master's programme such as M.Sc. Maths or Applied Maths, Statistics, Data Science/Analytics, Actuarial Science, Master of Computer Applications (MCA), or an Master of Business Administration (MBA). Job opportunities for a B.Sc. Maths graduate could range from being a data analyst, actuarial assistant, banking associate, probationary officer, accountant, market research analyst and so on. If you would like to teach at the school level, you must do a B.Ed.

Many government organisations (both union and state) conduct recruitment exams for various positions that require analytical and problem-solving abilities. Keep an eye out for exams like SSC CGL, UPSC, and State PSC exams.

Research the different career paths and further education options. Look at job descriptions and course syllabi to see what aligns with your interests. Identify any additional skills you might need for your desired path like programming, statistical software, and so on and work on developing them.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

Events

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), has launched a national case study competition. **ACCA Case Masters 2025: Redefining the Accountant** aims to provide students with a unique platform to demonstrate financial acumen, strategic thinking and problem-solving skills in real-world business scenarios.

Eligibility: B.Com and BBA students
Deadline: August 8
https://bit.ly/ACCA Case Masters

The International Career and College Counselling (IC3) Movement is hosting its **Annual IC3 Conference and Expo** on the theme Counselling as a Culture. The event will feature 35 expert-led session with speakers such as Devdutt Pattanaik, Sanyam Bharadwaj from the CBSE, Joseph Emmanuel from the CISCE, and actor Soha Ali Khan, the release of the third edition of the IC3 Student Suicides Report and the fifth edition of the IC3 Student Quest Report, and the IC3 Awards, the IC3 Host School Student and Parent Conference, and immersive learning workshops.
When: August 20-21
Where: Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.
https://t.ly/H-LTS

CACHE

REUTERS

Was there a security breach at the crypto exchange CoinDCX?

CoinDCX is a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) registered Indian cryptocurrency exchange founded in 2018. On July 19, CoinDCX reported financial exposure of about $44 million but stressed that the incident was contained by isolating the affected account

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On July 19, the crypto exchange CoinDCX updated users that one of its internal accounts had been "compromised." The company's executives reassured panicked investors and traders that their assets were safe and that access to their crypto would not be cut off. Despite assurances, many CoinDCX customers moved to withdraw their assets, perceiving the event could turn into something like the WazirX hack last year.

What happened to CoinDCX?

CoinDCX is a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) registered Indian cryptocurrency exchange founded in 2018 by Neeraj Khandelwal and Sumit Gupta, now counting over 1.6 crore registered users. On July 19, the exchange shared that one of its "internal operational accounts, used solely for liquidity provisioning on a partner exchange, was compromised due to a sophisticated server breach." Mr. Khandelwal clarified this involved unauthorised access to an operational hot (virtually connected) wallet on a partner exchange.

CoinDCX reported financial exposure of about $44 million but stressed that the incident was contained by isolating the affected account, which was segregated from the company's customer wallets. The exchange further added that the exposure was limited to that amount alone and that it would be fully absorbed by CoinDCX through its own reserves.

"The incident has been formally reported to CERT-In, and we are actively working with leading blockchain forensics firms and ecosystem partners to trace the attacker and recover assets," said CoinDCX in its Incident Report, and provided information about the cross-chain movement of the stolen assets.

The company also announced a recovery bounty programme.

How were CoinDCX users impacted by the hack?

CoinDCX repeatedly stressed that customers' funds were secure and unaffected by the hack, as they were placed in segregated, cold wallets that are challenging for attackers to breach. The company also stated that trading, rupee deposits, and rupee withdrawals remained fully functional throughout the period. However, some customers complained that their withdrawal requests took time to be processed, sparking fears that their funds had been frozen. CoinDCX's founding partner Mridul Gupta said that "operational challenges caused by high withdrawal volumes during non-banking hours" had led to some delays but denied allegations of a freeze. The company later confirmed that all withdrawal requests had been successfully processed.

While crypto withdrawals are not possible for everyone using CoinDCX, this is a pre-existing situation that is part of the company's risk policy and was not caused by the hack itself.

Furthermore, the exchange faced accusations of a 17-hour-long delay when it came to updating customers about the hack. CoinDCX defended its actions and said it needed to have all the information before issuing a statement to customers but said investigating agencies were immediately informed and onboarded.

"Our first priority is always to act, not just to speak. Before making a public statement, we had to ensure the threat was fully contained, our platform was secure, and all customer funds were safe. Communicating with incomplete or unverified information would have been irresponsible and could have caused unnecessary panic," said co-founder Sumit Gupta.

Other CoinDCX users raised complaints about temporary price drops for certain assets, as well as some tokens being under maintenance, which the company also addressed.

How are the CoinDCX and WazirX hacks different?

Just a little over a year ago, on July 18, 2024, WazirX was targeted by North Korean cyber-thieves. That day, a multi-signature wallet that the WazirX exchange was managing with the company Liminal was exploited, leading to the loss of assets worth over $230 million. This was far greater than the losses reported by CoinDCX; WazirX customers' assets were directly affected by this breach.

After much delay and confusion, WazirX blocked users' access to their crypto for an indefinite period of time and acknowledged significant losses. By contrast, CoinDCX has stressed that it is business as usual for the exchange, noting on X that its annual revenue exceeds ₹1,100 crore.

WazirX customers demanded that the company use its own profits or funds to cover losses, but the company said this was not possible, citing an ownership dispute with the international crypto exchange Binance. WazirX further decided to carry out its legal restructuring exercise in Singapore. WazirX users have not been able to access their locked up crypto for over a year and are set to vote for a second time on the amended Scheme of Arrangement. This comes after the first proposed restructuring plan was rejected by the Singapore High Court.

Both WazirX and CoinDCX were criticised for delays in informing their customers about their respective hacks.

What is the lesson for crypto investors in India?

Investors in India should remember that crypto trading is a largely unregulated activity in the country; even users of centralised, FIU-registered exchanges can expect little to no support from the Indian authorities in case of a crisis such as a security breach.

Satnam Narang, Senior Staff Research Engineer at Tenable, explained that if users want full control of their coins, they should consider self-custody options like an offline, hardware cold wallet they directly control. Even here, due diligence is required in order to buy only trusted hardware wallets from legitimate sellers, according to him.

"As more and more exchanges have been set up across the world, we have seen reports of attacks targeting smart contract flaws or other ways to steal funds from these exchanges including but not limited to social engineering, theft of credentials or private keys or targeting a third-party company that works with the targeted organisation," said Mr. Narang, noting that the CoinDCX hack was one of the largest cryptocurrency breaches since the attack against WazirX last year.

He highlighted that when crypto prices go up, there is also a rise in attacks against both exchanges and customers. Mr. Narang said that traders storing coins on crypto exchanges should use multi-factor authentication and strong passwords, or store their coins securely offline, if possible.

"There is an old adage in the cryptocurrency space that says: "not your keys, not your crypto/coins". As long as users store their cryptocurrency on an exchange, those coins don't necessarily belong to them because the exchange could ban their account or an exchange hack could lead to the loss of coins," explained Mr. Narang.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the 112th edition of the Tour De France cycle race that concluded on Sunday

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
By winning on Sunday, Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar has joined five other riders with four or more titles. Who was the last rider to win four titles?

QUESTION 2
This year's stage winners came from nine different nationalities. Riders from which non-European country claimed Stage wins prior to the last Stage on July 27?

QUESTION 3
What unfortunate distinction is common to Stage winners Philipsen (Stage 1), Mathieu van der Poel (Stage 2), and Remco Evenepoel (Stage 5)?

QUESTION 4
Apart from getting the yellow jersey, which other jersey did Pogacar win for topping the mountains classification?

QUESTION 5
In a rare change after the start of the event, Stage 19 was cut from 130km to 95km, with two planned categorised climbs dropped, because of what specific reason?

QUESTION 6
What was common to Stages 4, 7, 12, and 13 before the ceremonial finish with Stage 21 on Sunday?

Visual question:
Name this champion who consigned Pogacar to the runner-up spots in 2022 and 2023. AP

Questions and Answers to the July 25 edition of the daily quiz:
1. On July 25, 2007, this woman was sworn-in to the top post in the country. **Ans: Pratibha Patil**
2. The reason why World Embryologist Day is celebrated every year on July 25. **Ans: To mark the birth of the world's first test tube baby**
3. This woman astronaut became the first woman to perform this activity in space. **Ans: Svetlana Yevgenyevna Savitskaya and space walk**
4. Air France flight 4590 crashed in 2000 here. **Ans: Paris**
5. The painting which is not one of Thomas Eakins'. **Ans: Blue Dancers**
Visual: Identify this iconic movie and its director. **Ans: *Sleepless in Seattle*; Nora Ephron**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Piyali Tuli| Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| G. Pavithra

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I flirted with the idea of moving away

He hurled the bag at his friend for not doing chores around the house while he was away

S. Upendran

Is it okay to say 'flirt with an idea'? (J. Preethi, Kanpur)
When you flirt with another person, you are making it clear that you are attracted to the individual – at least, temporarily. In other words, you are not being very serious about the matter.

It is also possible to flirt with an idea. When you do this, you are merely toying with an idea. For example, you could flirt with the idea of buying an expensive car. When you do this, you consider buying one, but do not really put your heart and soul into it. You do not surf the Net about the types of cars available, the price, etc. You are not very serious about it; so much so, the very idea of buying a new car disappears after a short time.

When my uncle was young, he flirted with the idea of starting a school.

My daughter flirted with the idea of moving to Bengaluru. After driving in the city, she decided against it.

Which is correct? Sense of belonging or sense of belongingness? (A. Ishaq)
Both expressions are acceptable, and both have, more or less, the same meaning. Native speakers of English, however, employ 'sense of belonging' much more frequently than 'sense of belongingness'. When we settle in a new place – perhaps, within our own country or somewhere abroad – what is it that we all wish for? We would like the members of the community to welcome us and accept us with open arms. This feeling of inclusion that we have, makes us feel that we are part of the community. The relationships we build over time make us happy, and give us a sense of belonging.

Playing cricket with my friends, gives me a strong sense of belongingness.

What is the difference between 'throw' and 'hurl'? (S. Mayank)
In both cases, you have something in your hand, swing your arm back, and release the object into the air. The difference between 'throw' and 'hurl' (rhymes with 'curl' and 'pearl') is the manner in which you release the object. 'Throw', which is the general term, can be used to suggest that the object is being released gently or with force. For example, when we throw a ball to a child, we do so gently, for we do not want the child to get hurt. When we are playing cricket, and the batsman sets off for a quick single, we throw the ball with some heat on it – in other words, we throw it with tremendous force. The act of throwing doesn't always imply emotion. This is not the case with 'hurl'; you usually hurl something at someone because you are angry with the individual; and because you are angry, you throw whatever it is in your hand with a great deal of force. The intent in this case is to hurt the individual.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Logy:
stunned or confused and slow to react (as from blows or drunkenness or exhaustion)

Synonyms: dazed, foggy, groggy, stuporous

Usage: *After only a few hours of sleep, she woke up logy.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/logypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'lougi/

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- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Gaming Technology)
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- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Cloud Computing)*
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Cyber Security)*
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- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Game Design and Development)*
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- B.Tech in Electrical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- B.Tech in Electrical and Computer Engineering (New)
- B.Tech in Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- B.Tech in Embedded Sysytems
- B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering (For Working Professionals Only)

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- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering (NBA Accredited)
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- B.Tech in Robotics
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- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering (For Working Professionals Only)

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- Directed Energy Technology

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- BBA Business Analytics*
- BBA Marketing and Automobile Management*
- BBA Digital Marketing
- BBA with ACCA
- Integrated MBA (BBA with MBA)

Department of Finance
- BBA Banking, Financial Services and Insurance*

School of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management
- BBA Aviation Management*
- BBA Logistics and Supply Chain Management*
- BBA (Tourism & Travel)*

School of Liberal Education
- BA (Hons.) in Psychology*
- BA (Hons.) in Economics*
- BA (Hons.) in Political Science*
- BA (Hons.) in Sociology*
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A BG-BGE

Cumulative storage in major reservoirs at 80% capacity

Heavy rains in the catchment areas of the Cauvery and the Krishna basins have resulted in a cumulative storage of 715.6 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 895.62 tmcft

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The revival of the southwest monsoon in most parts of Karnataka during the fag end of July has resulted in a surge in inflow to major reservoirs, which have collectively attained over 80% of the total capacity.

Heavy rains

Heavy rains in the catchment areas of the Cauvery and the Krishna basins have contributed to this trend, as a result of which the cumulative storage across major reservoirs was 715.6 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) as against the gross capacity of 895.62 tmcft on Sunday, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

Krishna basin

The Krishna basin reservoirs are witnessing a massive surge in the inflow which was at the rate of 67,607 cusecs at the Tungabhadra, 60,160 cusecs at the Almatti, and 79,301 cusecs at the Narayanapur reservoirs, on Sunday morning.

The outflow from the Tungabhadra dam was 90,893 cusecs, while it was 80,195 cusecs from the Almatti and 86,275 cusecs from the Narayanapur reservoirs.

The cumulative gross storage capacity of the major dams in the Krishna basin is 422.45 tmcft and the storage on Sunday was 345.76 tmcft.

Storage in TB dam

While storage in the Tungabhadra reservoir was 75.87 tmcft as against the capacity of 105.79 tmcft, it was 97.55 tmcft at Almatti as against the capacity of 123.08 tmcft, and 64.78 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 71.54 tmcft at the Bhadra reservoir.

Cauvery basin

In the Cauvery basin, the four major reservoirs are nearly full and the cumulative storage was 110.29 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 114.57 tmcft. The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) had 48.06 tmcft of water as against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft, while the Hemavati had 36.14 tmcft as against the capacity of 37.10 tmcft. The storage position at Kabini was 18.96 tmcft as against the capacity of 19.52 tmcft, while at Harangi the storage was 71.3 tmcft as against the capacity of 8.5 tmcft.

The hydel reservoirs – Linganamakki, Supa and Varahi – together hold 236.53 tmcft out of the collective capacity of 328.18 tmcft. The trends indicate water security for both irrigation and power generation for the coming months, according to the authorities.

Flood warning issued

Authorities have issued a flood warning for people living in the downstream of the Tungabhadra dam as the outflow will be regulated between 90,000 cusecs and 1.4 lakh cusecs.

A release said the outflow from the Tungabhadra reservoir was pegged at 80,000 cusecs on Sunday post 2 p.m., while 20,000 cusecs was being discharged from the Supa dam.

The authorities said based on the rate of inflow, the outflow will also be regulated and could increase further.

Hence, people along the riverbanks and in the downstream region of the dam have been advised to shift.

Fact sheet

Major reservoirs	Storage position (in tmcft)		Inflow (in cusecs)
	Maximum capacity	Actual storage	
Linganamakki	155.75	122.36	47,155
Supa	145.33	91.33	33, 394
Bhadra	71.54	64.78	39,017
Tungabhadra	105.79	75.87	67,607
Ghataprabha	51	47.69	17,064
Malaprabha	37.73	30.21	6,049
Almatti	123.08	97.55	60,160
Narayanapur	33.31	29.66	79,301
KRS	49.45	48.06	52,856
Hemavati	37.10	36.14	38,715
Kabini	19.52	18.96	29,953

Live position as on July 27, 2025

Source: Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre

Rains: Escoms spend ₹77.31 cr. so far to repair infrastructure

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Year after year, the power infrastructure in Karnataka takes a hit during the premonsoon and the monsoon months of April, May, and June, indicating a long-standing maintenance problem.

This year, 42,209 electricity poles and 1,802 transformers have been damaged across the jurisdiction of the five electricity supply companies (Escoms) owing to weather vagaries. Of these, a total of 41,805 poles and most of the damaged transformers have been replaced.

Collectively, Escoms incurred an expenditure of ₹77.31 crore so far to replace the damaged infrastructure. Mangaluru Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) and Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) have suffered the most losses.

In 2024, 53,816 electricity poles and 3,924 transformers were damaged between April and July, with the Escoms incurring expenditure of ₹96.51 crore. The expenditure continued throughout the year with the figures touching ₹156 crore by November. A total of 4,594 electricity poles, 5,109 transformers, and 1693.19 km of electricity lines were damaged by the end of November.

Rain damage across Escoms between April and June

Escom	Poles damaged	Poles replaced	Transformers damaged
Bescom	4,598	4,598	613
CESC	5,996	5,886	96
Mescom	13,151	13,051	210
Hescom	10,936	10,742	385
Gescom	7,528	7,528	498

Experts pointed out that the damage was a result of many factors, including lack of maintenance, improper construction practices and tension assessment, and to some extent, unpredictable weather.

Maintenance issue

"Lack of maintenance is one of the bigger problems, as there are no parameters by which the power infrastructure is inspected regularly. Further, when it comes to construction, previously it used to be done by the Energy Department officials themselves. But now, the work is given to contractors who fail to follow many protocols. For instance, when an electricity pole is erected, one-fifth of its length should be buried underground. Such guidelines are rarely followed anywhere," said a former engineer at Karnataka Power Transport Corporation Limited (KPTCL) who was also a part of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission.

"While setting up infrastructure, an accurate amount of electrical tension should also be introduced to it. If the load is too high, then the infrastructure suffers, and if it is too low, even then, lines sag and other problems occur," he said.

Another expert from the electricity sector also emphasised that a lack of technical audit by a third party and regular monitoring by KERC has led to Escoms being lax with the awarding of tenders to set up electrical infrastructure.

When answering a question about infrastructure damage in the Legislative Assembly in December 2024, Energy Minister K.J. George said that Escoms were instructed to take up pre-monsoon and predictive maintenance to avoid electrical infrastructure damage in the future.

He had also directed officials to keep stock of electricity poles, conductors and other items in their warehouses to restore power in a short span of time to the affected areas.

Activists seek Devadasi survey without condition of age limit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As preparations are under way for the third survey of Devadasis in Karnataka, the community members have urged the State government to conduct the door-to door survey without fixing any age limit to identify the Devadasis – now concentrated mostly in 15 northern districts.

The Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University (NLSIU), which is spearheading efforts to bring a new legislation for Devadasis, has also petitioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against any age limit.

While the fresh survey – a long-pending demand of the community – had been announced in the 2024-2025 Budget, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) recently directed the government to complete the survey and come out with recommendations before this October.

It is learnt that the survey is being planned to be conducted through the offices of taluk-level child development officers, where Devadasis are expected to go and provide their details.

While circulars so far have been silent on the age, community members have been pointing to past surveys which were conducted similarly from offices and had kept out women below 45 years.

The Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University is spearheading efforts to bring a new legislation for Devadasis.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Banned in 1982

The centuries-old practice of dedication of women to temples as Devadasis has been banned in the State since 1982 when the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act was enacted. Subsequently, the government conducted surveys in 1993-1994 and 2007-2008, when 22,873 and 46,660 Devadasis, respectively, were identified.

However, Yamunurappa, coordinator of Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike, claimed that a similar number of Devadasis have remained outside the list owing to several issues.

"I did not even know of a survey being conducted. I have a Devadasi certificate, but I am not on the list. I do not get any pension," 74-year-old Honnamma from Harikere in Harappanahalli of Vijayanagara district said, pointing to a lack of awareness. Being on the list becomes important for receiving rehabilitation benefits including ₹2,000 monthly pension.

The demand for house-to-house survey by the team, which should include former Devadasis, has come in the light of allegations that many non-Devadasis were getting included in the current list and receiving benefits.

Lack of awareness

"Earlier, stigma prevented many from coming out in the open and many were threatened by officials of possible legal trouble if they declared themselves to be Devadasis because it had been banned in 1982. Despite the ban, the tradition continued across many big temples during annual fairs in North Karnataka," said Manjula Malige, daughter of a Devadasi and now associated with Hosapete-based Sakhi Trust.

"The biggest hindrance in the previous two surveys has been the age limit of 45 and above to qualify to register. Women in North Karnataka also migrate for livelihood. There was a lack of awareness about the survey."

According to R.V. Chandrashekar, researcher in NLSIU, the government orders in the previous surveys remained silent on the age limit, but they crept in during subsequent circulars. "We want the survey to be comprehensive following which a one-time rehabilitation is possible."

Police stop trekkers in Mudigere

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Police officials of Bankal and Baluru stations in Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district, stopped visitors from Bengaluru, who were planning to trek in the forests near Bidarthala village in Mudigere taluk without permission.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Bribe for releasing pension too

The State government officials seem to be seeking bribes not only while releasing funds for development works, but also while clearing files related to pension and medical claims of former lawmakers, said Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti.

Narrating a case during the release of a book on former Minister the late K.H. Srinivas at Sagar in Shivamogga district, he said an official of the Council Secretariat had delayed clearing the pension and medical claims of Srinivas, even after repeated requests from the family. The official wanted a bribe of ₹25,000.

Mr. Horatti said he summoned the officer concerned and ensured that the files were cleared in a day and ordered the suspension of the staff member who had demanded the bribe.

Display rate card, please

Despite several efforts to crack down on bribes, the problem of officials seeking money for delivery of services appears to persist in the Revenue Department.

During his surprise visits to various Revenue offices in different taluks, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has been pulling up officials for delaying services to citizens.

During his recent visit to the Bengaluru South taluk office, the Minister sarcastically asked officials: "What is the running rate per case to get approval now? If this is how it works, you might as well put up a rate board outside the office to at least ensure transparency."

Different effects of defection?

Ramesh Jigajinagi, MP and BJP leader, who has won nine elections in his public life, recently spoke about what he called "mind altering effects" of political defection.

During a recent chat with reporters in Vijayapura, the veteran leader said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah underwent a complete change after joining the Congress. "We were all together in the Janata Parivar. Mr. Siddaramaiah was such a great human being then, almost godly. But he has completely changed now. From a pro-people leader, he has become anti-people. This is what defection does to you," he said.

When a journalist reminded him that he too had changed parties, he claimed that it had done him good. "I joined the BJP only to become a better man. I am a better leader now," he claimed.

Sathish G.T.
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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

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2		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/569/2025-26 Date: 21.07.2025 (Call-2)	Rs. 24,12,180/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/STR/567/2025-26 Date: 21.07.2025 (Call-4)	Rs. 39,15,686/- / Rs. 66,500/-		

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6		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/1115/2025-26 Date: 22.07.2025	Rs. 39,79,736/- / Rs. 80,000/-		

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DIPR/CP/2050/Zen/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that we, on behalf of our client, **Ms. Ashra Saeed d/o Qazi Saeed Haque,** are investigating the right, title and interest of **Mr. Rayasam Murali and Ms. Suvarna Lakhsmi,** both having their address at Apartment No. 32027, 2 nd Floor, Tower No. 2, Building No. 3, Prestige Jindal City, Tumkur Main Road, Manjunatha Nagar, Bagalakunte, Bengaluru - 560073, in respect of the Premises which is more particularly described in the **Schedule** hereunder written in respect of a sale and transfer of the **Premises** by **Mr. Rayasam Murali and Ms. Suvarna Lakshmi** to our client.

Any person or persons having any share, right, title, interest, claim or demand against or to or upon or in the **Premises** and or any part thereof described in the **Schedule** hereunder written whether by way of sale, assignment, bequest, gift, exchange, encumbrance, lease, tenancy, license, mortgage, charge, covenant, devise, lien, transfer, lis-pendens, maintenance, possession, sub-lease, sub-tenancy, trust, partition, acquisition, requisition, inheritance, easement, attachment, possession, reversionary rights or otherwise or rights of any nature whatsoever or order / decree / judgement of any Court, option agreement or any kind of agreement or otherwise howsoever and whatsoever, are hereby required to intimate the same in writing along with supporting documentary proof at the address given below within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this Public Notice, failing which, any such right, title, interest, claim or demand, if any, shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.

THE SCHEDULE HEREINABOVE REFERRED TO:
(Description of Premises)

Residential Apartment bearing **No.32027,** Property **No. 7571835565,** CMC Khata **No.555/556/557/B3/T2/2F-32027** (in the records of City Municipal Council of Madanayakanahalli), situated in the **Second Floor, Tower-2 in Building No.3 in "PRESTIGE JINDAL CITY"** admeasuring 1176 sq. ft. carpet area or thereabouts and 526 sq. ft. of proportionate share in common areas, totally measuring 1702 Sq. ft. of super built-up area with 1 (one) covered car parking space bearing **No. LH1731** on the Lower Basement Floor level in the building 'Prestige Jindal City' alongwith **425.50 sq. ft. undivided share, right, title interest and ownership** in the land on which Prestige Jindal City has been developed i.e. converted lands bearing Survey No. 29/2, Survey No. 28/4, Survey No. 31/1, Survey No. 31/2, Survey No. 36/1, Survey No. 32/2 and Survey No. 32/1, in all admeasuring 29 Acres 4.92 Guntas, all situated at Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanpura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, (presently Bangalore North Taluk), Bangalore Urban District and bounded as under:

North by : Village Boundary of Srikantapura and Road;
South by : Tumakuru Main Road and Kirlokar Layout;
East by : Budhajyoti Layout and Private Properties; and
West by : Private Properties and Kirloskar Layout.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2025.

For IVORY LEGAL
Advocates & Attorneys
sd/-
Mr. Aamir Ali Sheikh
Office No. 31, Nawab Building, D. N. Road, Opp. Thomas Cook, Fort,Mumbai – 400 001.
Email: mail@ivorylegal.in

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I SINDHU Nathan wife of late I Gerald Nathan resident of A 16/1 Vijaykiran Apartment, 32 Victoria Road, Bangalore South, Karnataka 560047, have changed my name from Sindhu Nathan to Sindhu Thomas vide affidavit sworn before Jalandhara dated 26 July 2025 at Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COURT, PALANI, DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TAMILNADU
O.S. NO. 266/2024

Palraj ... Plaintiff
-Vs-
E. Philip Madan Kumar S/o Edwin Jeyraj, Ammasandra, R.S. Road, Dandinashivara Hobli, Turuvekere Taluk, Karnataka - 572215
... 25th Defendant

The Plaintiff have filed this original partition suit against you and other defendants. Such case is scheduled to be heard on **28.08.2025.** You are hereby summoned to appear in court in person or through a duly instructed advocate on that date at **10:00 a.m.** to present any objections you may have. If you do not comply, the suit will be decided ex-parte against you.

Sd/- P. MAHENDRAN, Advocate
59, Dindigul Road, PALANI-624 601.

IN THE COURT OF I ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
IA No
in
O.S. No. 999/2024

Between : 1) Sri M. MUNIVENKATAPPA, S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 65 years, **2) Sri M. MUNIKRISHNAPPA,** S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 62 years, **3) Sri M. NAGARAJU,** S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 59 years, **4) Sri M. MUNIRAJU,** S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 55 years, **5) Sri M. NARAYANASWAMY,** S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 52 years, **6) Sri M. RAMU,** S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 49 years, Sl No 1 to 6 are residing at No. 546, Near Sri Balamuri Ganesha Temple, Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefiled, BENGALURU-560 066. **...Plaintiffs**

And : 1) Sri SANDEEP. M S/o Late Manjunath. H, Aged about 22 years, Residing at No. 60/3, Brindhavan Layout, Muthasandra Main Road, Near Elberthal Church, Varthur, BENGALURU-560 087. **...Defendant No. 2**

2) Sri K. SIVA KUMAR REDDY, S/o Late Venkata Rama Reddy, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No. 383/3, 4th Cross, 36th Main, Near Central Silk Board, 1st Stage, BTM Layout, BENGALURU -560 068. **...Defendant No. 4**

3) Sri THUMMALA MADHAVA, S/o Sri Narasimham, Aged about 38 years, Residing at: 1-6-29, Mahadevapuram, Kandukur, Prakasam, ANDHRA PRADESH - 523 105. **...Defendant No. 6**

4) Smt. ALLURU SYAMALA, W/o Sri Alluru Venkata Sesha Reddy, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No. 3/10/12, Nagiri Street, Devidi Line, Srikalahasti, Chittor, ANDHRA PRADESH - 517 644. **...Defendant No. 9**

5) Smt. ALLURU SREE MEENA REDDY, D/o Sri Alluru Venkata Sesha Reddy, Aged about 33 years, Residing at: 3/10/12, Nagiri Street, Devidi Line, Srikalahasti, Chittor, ANDHRA PRADESH - 517 644. **...Defendant No. 11**

6) Sri P. SANATH KUMAR REDDY, S/o Sri Kota Reddy, Aged about 78 years, Residing at: 68/61, Spurtank Road, Meyar Ramanathan Road, Cheput, Chennai, TAMIL NADU- 600 031. **...Defendant No. 12**

7) Sri A.N. BALASUBRAMANIAM, S/o Sri A.K. Narasimhulu, Aged about 59 years, Residing at: Old No. 3/1, New No 9, 11th Avenue, Harrington Road, Shenoy Nagar S.O, Chennai, TAMIL NADU-600 030. **...Defendant No. 13**

8) Sri KATAMREDDY DINESH REDDY, S/o Sri Sundararamireddy, Aged about 40 years, Residing at Chinnapadugupadu, Kovur, Nellore, ANDHRA PRADESH - 524 137. **...Defendant No. 14**

9) Sri PALAGATI NISHANTH REDDY, S/o Sri Plagati Dasaradharami Reddy, Aged about 43 years, Resident of 1-2-23, Kokkupadu, Kota, Nellore, ANDHRA PRADESH - 524 411. **...Defendant No. 15**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 TO 15 UNDER V RULE 20 OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908 TO THE

Whereas, the Plaintiffs have instituted the above suit Declaration and permanent injunction in respect of schedule property mentioned below. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all the material questions relating to the suit or you shall be accompanied by some person able answer all such questions **on the 1st day of September 2025 at 11.00 A.M** to answer the suit, and further you are hereby directed to file written statement on the said date on your defence and produce documents if any in support of your defence, failing which the matter will heard and treated you as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, measuring 0.14 guntas, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru. East by : Munishamappa land, West by : Rangappa's land, North by : Venkatappa (Defendant No. 1) land, South by : Ramaiah's land.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY
(portion of the suit schedule A property)

Item No. 1 : All that piece and parcel of the alleged Site No. 6, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet and totally measuring 2400 square feet, carved out of property bearing Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru. East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No. 5, South by : Private Property.

Item No. 2 : All that piece and parcel of the alleged Site No. 5, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 33.5 feet and totally measuring 2010 square feet, carved out of property bearing Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru. East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : alleged Site No. 4, South by : alleged Site No. 6.

Item No 3 : All that piece and parcel of the alleged Site No. 1, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 45 feet and totally measuring 1350 square feet, carved out of property bearing Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru. East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : alleged Site No. 2.

Item No. 4 : All that piece and parcel of the alleged Site No. 2, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 34 feet and totally measuring 2040 square feet, carved out of property bearing Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru. East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : alleged Site No. 1 and Private property, South by : alleged Site No. 3.

Item No 5 : All that piece and parcel of the alleged Site No. 4, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 33 feet and totally measuring 1980 square feet, carved out of property bearing Sy.No. 90/3, Old No. 21, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bengaluru. East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : alleged Site No. 3 and South by : alleged Site No. 5.

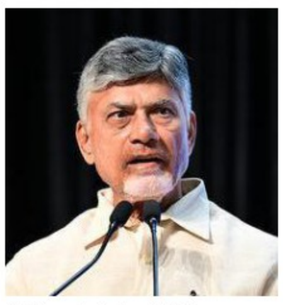
Given under my hand on this 22nd day of July 2025 at Bengaluru.

By order of the Court, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICE, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist., Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiffs : **H. MANJUNATH**
No. 1028/A, Ground Floor, 15th Main Road, Near Maruthi Circle, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 050. (M) 98863 12354

Naidu invites foreign firms to invest in ports, renewables

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA


N. Chandrababu Naidu

In a major step toward deepening international partnerships and boosting foreign investments, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Shilpak Ambule on the first day of his official visit.

The discussions centered on transformative opportunities across sectors such as defence, electronics, aerospace, green energy, and quantum technologies.

During the high-level meeting, Mr. Shilpak Ambule referred to the "CBN Brand" in Singapore's diplomatic and industrial circles, underscoring the respect and recognition it commanded.

He noted the alignment between Andhra Pradesh's development goals and Singapore's strategic strengths, expressing optimism about the potential for robust bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Naidu emphasised that Andhra Pradesh was rapidly emerging as a premier investment destination, backed by forward-looking policies and sector-specific incentives. He highlighted that the State was implementing a range of investor-friendly reforms aimed at attracting companies from Singapore and beyond, particularly in the areas of ports, renewable energy, and industrial corridors.

Referring to past collaboration on the Amaravati capital city project, Mr. Naidu acknowledged the setback experienced during 2019-2024, but reiterated his commitment to reviving and strengthening the ties.

Re-establish trust

"This visit is an opportunity to clear misunderstandings, re-establish trust, and forge a renewed vision for development," Mr. Naidu said.

The Chief Minister outlined Andhra Pradesh's ambitious goal to generate 160 gigawatts of green energy. He revealed that green hydrogen projects had already commenced in Visakhapatnam in collaboration with the NTPC, and another was under way in Kakinada. He shared plans for India's first Quantum Valley in Amaravati under the India Quantum Mission, reinforcing the State's commitment to futuristic innovation.

Highlighting the strategic importance of regions such as Rayalaseema, he invited Singaporean firms to invest in high-potential sectors such as defence manufacturing, aerospace, electronics, and automobiles.

Liquor 'scam': SIT searches properties in Hyderabad

Police teams visit offices, industrial units, and other properties in and around the city; the SIT, which is investigating the alleged multi-crore scam, has so far arrested 12 accused in the case

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

A special investigation team (SIT) searched the properties in Hyderabad of the accused who have been arrested in the alleged liquor scam. The SIT, which is investigating the alleged multi-crore scam in Andhra Pradesh, has so far arrested 12 accused in the case.

Multiple police teams searched the offices, industrial units and other properties of the accused in and around Hyderabad on Saturday night. The investigating officers seized documents and other technical evidence related to the crime.

"Searches were under way on the properties of Kessireddy Rajashekar Reddy, Buneti Chanikya and Balaji Govindappa, who are in judicial custody," a senior police officer told *The Hindu* on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

On trial: Kessireddy Rajasekhar Reddy, one of the 12 accused in the scam, being produced in court in Vijayawada in June. K.V.S.GIRI

It was alleged that the accused framed a new liquor policy during the YSR Congress Party regime, encouraged manual sales, collected commissions from the distillery companies, routed the ill-gotten money into shell companies. and allegedly caused about ₹3,500 crore loss to the government.

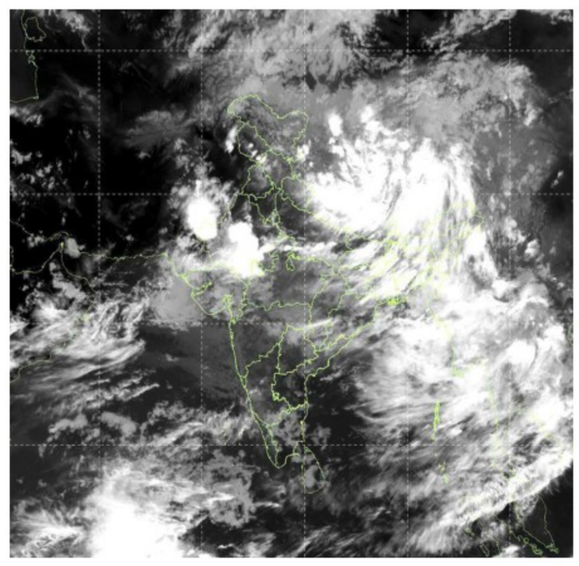
The Crime Investigation Department (CID), which filed the preliminary chargesheet in the ACB Special Court, said around 48 people were involved in the scam.

The police said the accused purchased villas, luxury cars, land, and jewellery and transferred the money to shell companies and benami accounts.

"The role of some other officers of A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited [APBCL], Excise, Revenue and other department officers is being probed," the police said. A senior police official on condition of anonymity said they were questioning public representatives and bureaucrats in the case.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday


TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, coastal Karnataka, Gujarat region, madhya Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, south interior Karnataka, Uttarakhand and west Uttar Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	50.0	32.7	26.0	Kozhikode	68.0	24.5	22.8
Ahmedabad	47.0	34.2	25.6	Kurnool	—	30.5	24.7
Aizawl	1.4	24.5	21.4	Lucknow	—	34.9	28.0
Allahabad	11.0	30.2	26.8	Madurai	—	34.5	25.1
Bengaluru	0.7	26.6	19.5	Mangaluru	52.9	27.8	22.6
Bhopal	6.0	27.6	23.4	Mumbai	17.7	29.5	25.5
Bhubaneswar	0.1	32.0	26.4	Mysuru	00.0	00.0	00.0
Chandigarh	—	36.9	28.5	New Delhi	—	35.7	26.7
Chennai	—	34.8	28.4	Patna	4.1	33.1	27.2
Coimbatore	1.0	28.7	22.0	Port Blair	0.8	31.0	27.5
Dehradun	—	35.6	26.5	Puducherry	—	35.4	26.0
Gangtok	13.0	20.6	18.5	Pune	8.2	26.3	21.9
Goa	00.0	00.0	00.0	Raipur	1.4	27.0	25.0
Guwahati	98.6	36.5	25.7	Ranchi	5.0	26.3	22.6
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	11.0	25.3	19.0
Hyderabad	9.0	29.8	22.1	Shimla	0.2	26.0	18.5
Imphal	0.2	27.5	24.7	Srinagar	—	30.7	20.5
Jaipur	00.0	00.0	00.0	Thiruvananthapuram	4.0	29.8	23.4
Kochi	00.0	00.0	00.0	Tiruchi	—	33.1	26.0
Kohima	20.0	26.0	20.1	Vijayawada	00.0	00.0	00.0
Kolkata	15.0	32.6	25.5	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	..67	17	 40	48	
Bengaluru	.12	7	33	 23	...104	
Chennai	...5	..28	.—	 31	...107	
Delhi	...7	..31	24	 48	...181	
Hyderabad	..—	..14	30	 72	88	
Kolkata	.10	..66	25	 15	31	
Lucknow	...5	..29	55	 28	37	
Mumbai	...5	..19	.9	 36	82	
Pune	..—	..47	71	 27	38	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rupnagar, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 140 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

LDF, UDF condemn arrest of 2 Kerala nuns over forced conversion charges

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The arrest of two Keralite nuns on charges of human trafficking and kidnapping for forced religious conversion at the Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh on Friday has drawn sharp criticism from Church leaders, the ruling Left Democratic Front and the Opposition in Kerala.

Fr.Robin Rodrigues, a spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), told pressersons in Raipur on Sunday that the nuns were travelling with three other women, from Durg to Agra when persons, suspected to be Bajrang Dal workers, accosted them angrily.

He said they accused the nuns, Sister Vandana Francis Sister Preeta Mary, of taking women to Agra to convert them to Christianity. CBCI Women's Council secretary Asha Paul said the women were travelling with the sisters on their own volition.

All India Congress Committee general secretary (Organisation) and MP K.C. Venugopal said the arrest of the nuns on "trumped up" charges was the latest incident in the long series of persecution of minorities in BJP-ruled States in north India.

LDF leader Jose K. Mani, MP, posted on social media that he has sought the urgent intervention of Prime Minister to stop mob attacks against Christians in BJP-ruled States.

Legacy of Chola dynasty provides road map for modern India: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM

Steeped in history: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Brihadisvara Temple in Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur on Sunday. PIB

Paying glowing tributes to the military might and administrative acumen of Rajendra Chola I and his father Rajaraja Chola, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the heights reached by the emperors were a source of inspiration, providing an ancient road map for India to become a developed nation.

"The economic and strategic advancements during the Chola era remain a source of inspiration to modern India. To become a developed nation, we must prioritise unity, strengthen our navy and defence forces, and look for new opportunities, while safeguarding our core values," Mr. Modi said at the valediction of the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival marking the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I at Gangaikonda Cholapuram.

Mr. Modi also released a commemorative coin in honour of Rajendra Chola I. The king had built Gangaikonda Cholapuram, the ancient capital of the Imperial Cholas, along with the Brihadisvara Temple and the Cholagangam, a massive lake, after his victorious expedition to the Gangetic plains about a 1,000 years ago.

Grand statues

The Prime Minister said the Centre would install grand statues of the two emperors in Tamil Nadu to serve as pillars of the country's historical consciousness.

"The legacy of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola is synonymous with India's identity and pride. The history and heritage of the Chola Empire proclaim the true potential of India," he said.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to the country's Shaivite tradition too, saying it played a vital role in shaping the nation's cultural identity.

Farmer on night watch killed in attack by wild elephants in Chittoor district

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

A farmer, Ramakrishna Raju, 55, was killed on the spot when a 16-strong herd of wild elephants attacked him in a field at Kothuru village of Somala mandal in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh late on Saturday night.

The incident triggered panic in several villages in the vicinity, as the herd was reportedly camping at a waterbody nearby.

As per information, the herd emerged from the nearby thickets, strayed into the field, and attacked the unsuspecting victim who was on night watch. The sudden charge left the farmer helpless.

Tragic demise: Ramakrishna Raju, the farmer who was trampled to death by elephants.

The villagers informed the forest officials that the herd had been resorting to crop raids after dusk for the past three days.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan condoled the farmer's death and expressed solidarity with the family members. He announced that ex gratia would be given, and directed that the forest officials initiate corrective measures to prevent wild elephants from venturing into human habitations.

Meanwhile, the incident led to angry protests on Sunday, with the villagers staging a blockade on the Tirupati-Punganur Road along with the body of the farmer, blaming the Forest Department for its "gross negligence."

No tangible action

Raising slogans such as "where are the Kumki elephants," the villagers urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Mr. Kalyan to immediately intervene and do justice to the bereaved family. They demanded that a scientific action plan be worked out to put an end to the vexed man-animal conflict in the western mandals of the district.

The villagers alleged that despite their repeated alerts about the movement of the wild elephants, there was no tangible action from the Forest Department.

Senior forest officials rushed to Kothuru and pacified the agitators by assuring them compensation and corrective measures. The farmer's body was later shifted to the area hospital for autopsy.

BJP to hold Statewide protest today over 'poor quality' seeds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B..Y. Vijayendra

Accusing the Karnataka government of being responsible for distribution of "sub-standard seeds", State Bharatiya Janata Party president B.Y. Vijayendra on Sunday said that the BJP will organise a protest in all district headquarters (barring Bengaluru) on Monday.

He also sought criminal action against agencies involved in the distribution of sub-standard seeds and spurious fertilizer. He said that the monsoon arrived earlier than usual, and that the State government should have been aware of this. "Since sowing doesn't happen simultaneously across all districts, the government should have estimated the required quantity of urea and seeds for regions like Kalaburagi, Koppal, and Shivamogga," he told presspersons here.

Mr. Vijayendra claimed that a black market for fertilizer is thriving in Karnataka, forcing farmers to pay two to three times the usual rate to purchase urea. Farmers are being given low-quality seeds, which has caused immense distress and financial loss, he said, adding that immediate action should be initiated by identifying and filing criminal cases against agencies responsible for distributing sub-standard seeds and adulterated fertilizer.

"Although the Central government has provided over 8.7 lakh tonnes of urea, only 5.25 lakh tonnes are available in the market today," he claimed.

He said that the State government should have anticipated higher sowing activity and increased demand for urea, and should have written to the Centre in advance.

Kharge recalls how he missed a chance to become CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Participating in a function in Vijayapura, Mr. Kharge said he had no regrets about it

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday became a bit emotional while recalling his political journey in which he saw several ups and downs.

Participating in a function organised in memory of the founders of BLDE Society in Vijayapura, Mr. Kharge went down memory lane.

He became a bit emotional while remembering the loss of his family members in the attacks by the Razakars.

He also recalled how he came close to becoming the Chief Minister but missed the chance subsequently.

Mr. Kharge, however, said that he was not upset but, instead, he was happy because he had grown from block Congress president to become the AICC president.

"In 1999, I, as Opposition leader, brought the party to power; however, S.M. Krishna became the Chief Minister. But I have no regrets as I do not go after power," he added.

Village residents seek police help over liquor sale menace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Villagers of Rajaghatta in Doddaballapur taluk, especially women, raised concerns over what they called rampant sale of liquor, and claimed that it was destroying families by pushing their husbands into addiction and joblessness. They sought police help to contain the menace.

The issue was brought up during the SC/ST grievance meet organised by the Bengaluru district police along with 'Mane Manege Police' (door-to-door police service) on Sunday.

Lakshmamma, one of the villagers, who spoke on behalf of the other women in the locality, told Superintendent of Police C.K. Baba that the liquor shops in the area open at 6 a.m., and operate till midnight or beyond. "This is posing a threat to the families, as the men get drunk early in the morning and do not go to work. Most of the families face a difficult situation owing to the alcohol menace and it is pushing them into penury. Even grocery and vegetable shops have started stocking up liquor, making them accessible round the clock," she said.

Mr. Baba summoned Excise Department officials to ensure that the liquor shops should adhere to the time specified in the licensing condition. The department and the jurisdictional police have also been asked to conduct regular checks on the illegal sale of liquor at the shops.

Meanwhile, a few students present at the meeting complained of being humiliated at schools as they were ridiculed by their friends and classmates for their caste. "We were mocked and called caste names. The teachers and village elders are not doing anything despite being aware of this situation," a student told senior police officers.

Taking strong objection to this, Mr. Baba asked the Panchayat Development Officer, and officials of the Education Department to take immediate action and ensure such practices are not repeated.

Not the way

Criminalising adolescent sex will undermine the aim of the POCSO Act

The key objective of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is the protection of children, but over the past few years, courts around the country and rights activists have called for some exemptions. Noticing a trend that adolescents, above 15 years but under 18, in voluntary relationships and having consensual sex were often being persecuted, the courts sought a review. In that backdrop, senior advocate Indira Jaising's written submission to the Supreme Court that consensual sex between teenagers aged 16-18 years must not be criminalised is a welcome move. She was appointed *amicus curiae* and her submissions are part of a petition filed by advocate Nipun Saxena. Her brief challenged the designation of 18 years as the age of consent. She said the only solution lies in declaring that sex between consenting adolescents between the age of 16, an almost universal age of sexual maturity, and 18, is not a form of 'abuse'. Ms. Jaising called for this exception to be read into the POCSO Act and Section 63 (sexual offences), of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "Such an exception would preserve the protective intent of the statute while preventing its misuse against adolescent relationships that are not exploitative in nature," she said.

In a 2023 report, the Law Commission had said that it was against changing the age of consent. It advised "guided judicial discretion" instead, while sentencing in cases that involve children between 16 and 18 years in a voluntary, consensual relationship. Under the POCSO Act and under several provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the BNS, whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child – who is anyone below 18 years – can face stringent punishment under Section 6 of the POCSO Act, Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and provisions of the IPC and BNS. A 16-year-old is considered a "child" under Section 2(d) of the POCSO Act and hence her consent does not matter. But caveats have to be put in place so that the broad intent of the law is adhered to, as the Madras High Court suggested in 2021, in *Vijayalakshmi vs State Rep*. The High Court said the age difference in consensual relationships should not be more than five years to ensure that a girl of an impressionable age is not taken advantage of by an older person. Educating adolescents about the law on sexual offences and its consequences is a must too. Criminalising normal adolescent behaviour is not the way to protect against non-consensual, exploitative sexual offences.

State for the stateless

The West must follow France in recognising Palestinian statehood

France's decision to recognise Palestinian statehood, in September, reflects President Emmanuel Macron's deep frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the ongoing war on Gaza, as well as his willingness to adopt a more pro-active and constructive approach towards finding a durable solution. Of the 193 members of the UN, 147, including India, China and Russia, have already recognised the Palestinian state. But powerful western nations, with close ties to Israel, have always stopped short of granting official recognition even if professing support for a two-state solution. But this position began to shift after the Gaza war in October 2023, with more European countries taking formal steps towards its recognition. Last year, Spain, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia recognised Palestine's independence. If Mr. Macron follows through, France will be the first G-7 member nation to do so. Such a move may not have an immediate, direct impact on the peace process. That more western European countries are now ready to take irreversible measures in favour of Palestinian statehood, ignoring strong opposition from Tel Aviv and Washington, marks a clear change in sentiment towards one of the modern world's most contentious conflicts.

Mr. Macron's announcement comes at a critical juncture for the Palestinians. The war has devastated the enclave with confirmed deaths reaching 60,000 in 21 months – roughly 2.5% of its total population. In the West Bank, settler violence has displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians. Israeli Ministers have openly threatened to ethnically cleanse Gaza and annex the West Bank. Images of starving and malnourished children, which came out of Gaza last week, have jolted global conscience. Even Israel's closest allies, including Britain, Canada and France, issued a rare joint statement, urging Mr. Netanyahu to "immediately end the humanitarian catastrophe". Under mounting pressure, Israel has announced 'tactical pauses' in its attacks. But this is far from sufficient. What Gaza urgently needs is a complete end to the bombings and shelling, and the full opening of its borders to humanitarian aid. Given that pressure is the only language Israel appears to understand, and with the Donald Trump presidency showing no willingness to apply it, Europe must do more. Efforts to end the war, which in terms of mass killings, devastation and displacement is comparable to the 1948-49 Nakba, must be accompanied by initiatives to ensure that such a catastrophe is never repeated. There should be concrete measures from the international community to pursue a durable political solution, which is the two-state solution. The first step in that direction is the recognition of Palestinian independence and statehood. France has promised to join, though belatedly, most member-countries of the UN in the statehood push. Other nations in the West must follow.

Clearing the air on 'citizenship' in Bihar poll roll revision

G. Rajagopalan

is a senior advocate and, formerly, Additional Solicitor General

It is fundamental that unless a person is a citizen of India he cannot be an elector. Consequently, he cannot become a legislator also. Therefore, it is very surprising that some seasoned politicians have raised objections to the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar (where Assembly elections are expected shortly) that citizenship should not be verified. It only demonstrates that they have absolutely no knowledge of the Constitution and the working of the system. Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the "superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of Electoral roll and the conduct of all elections ... shall vest" in the Election Commission. The preparation of electoral rolls is a continuous process, and is revised from time to time irrespective of there being elections or no elections (*Lakshmi Charan Sen and Ors Etc vs A.K.M. Hassan Uzzaman and Ors. Etc., AIR 1985 SC 1233*).

Clarity on being a citizen

Article 326 of the Constitution of India provides that "the Elections to the House of People and the Legislature of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage, that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age in such State, as may be fixed in that behalf, by or under any law made by the appropriate legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any Law made by the appropriate Legislature" on certain grounds. Therefore, it is clear that unless a person is a citizen of India, he is not entitled to be registered as a voter in any election.

Pursuant to the enabling provisions, Parliament enacted The Representation of The People Act, 1950, which deals with the preparation of electoral rolls and delimitation. The Preamble to the 1950 Act reads as follows: "An Act to provide the allocation of seats in, and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of election to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voters at such elections, the preparation of electoral rolls, the manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of Union territories, and matters connected therewith."

Part-IIA of the 1950 Act deals with the Officers of the Commission which includes Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Part-IIB deals with Electoral Rolls for Parliamentary Constituencies and Part-III deals with Electoral Rolls for Assembly constituencies.

Section 15 of the 1950 Act deals with preparation of Electoral Rolls for every Constituency under the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission. Section 16 of the 1950 Act deals with disqualifications for registration in an Electoral Roll, and in specific, Section 16(1)(a) provides that if a person is not a Citizen of India, he shall be disqualified for being registered as a voter. Further, Section 16(2) provides that the name of the person who is so disqualified, even if registered, shall be struck off from the electoral rolls. Besides this, Section 20 of the 1950 Act also provides who is "ordinarily resident" in a constituency. Section 21 deals with preparation and revision of electoral rolls, while Section 22 deals with correction of entries in electoral rolls. Section 23 deals with the inclusion of names in electoral rolls, and Section 24 provides that if anybody is aggrieved by an order of inclusion or exclusion, they can prefer an appeal to the authority referred to in the Section.

> The political objections being raised on the issue of citizenship reveal a lack of knowledge of the Constitution, legislation and the working of the electoral system

The only period during which no amendment, transposition or deletion is permitted, is referred to under Section 23(3) of the 1950 Act, which provides that no amendment, transposition, deletion or inclusion, shall be made after the last date for making the nominations for an election in that constituency.

Therefore, it is fundamental that unless a person is a citizen of India, their name cannot be included in the electoral roll. And if it is erroneously included, it can be deleted under the provisions, as stated above.

Under the duties of the Election Commission

In fact, it is the duty of the ECI to verify whether the name of any non-citizen has been included in an electoral roll, if a complaint or doubt in this regard has been raised. In fact, to put it otherwise, the ECI or its officers, have no jurisdiction to include a non-citizen's name in the electoral roll; if it is so, it is null and void. Therefore, if an application is made for inclusion or a complaint is received that a non-citizen's name is included in the electoral roll, it is the duty of the ECI to conduct an inquiry as necessary to ensure that non-citizens' names are rejected and deleted from the list. If the ECI fails to do so, it would be failing in its constitutional duty and the purpose for which the power has been granted under Articles 324 and 326 would be defeated.

In the same line, if you probe further, to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly or a Member of Parliament, one has to be a voter in a constituency; if he is not a citizen of India, he cannot be a member of Parliament or a State Legislature. In fact, Article 102 of the Constitution provides for disqualification of membership of either House of Parliament, while Article 191 provides the same for a State Legislature. It is very clear under Article 102(1)(d) that a person "shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being a member of either House of Parliament, if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State or if he is under acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State". Article 191, which applies to the State Legislature, also provides the same. If someone contends that a non-citizen would be a voter, they are also contending that a non-citizen can be a member of Legislature, which is nothing but absurd.

Therefore, if questioned, one has to prove to the satisfaction of the authority, that he is a citizen of India, and that he satisfies the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955. Though Section 7A of the 1955 Act provides for the registration of overseas citizens in India, Section 7B(2) of the said Act clearly provides that an Overseas citizen of India Cardholder shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on the citizens of India with regard to the registration of a voter.

Therefore, the constitutional and statutory scheme clearly provides that unless a person is a citizen of India, his name cannot be included in the electoral roll. And even if he is included, the authority of the ECI can order deletion of their name under Section 16(2) of the 1950 Act.

It is relevant to note the decision of the Supreme Court of India (reported in *Dr. Yogesh Bhardwaj vs State Of U.P. And Ors, 1990 3 SCC 355*), which dealt with admission in a medical college. In the said judgment, it has been observed in paragraph 20 that it is only lawful residence that can be taken into account, and if a man stays in a country in breach of immigration laws, his presence there does not constitute ordinary residence.

The Aadhaar card and citizenship

One more issue which has to be dealt with is whether any person who has an Aadhaar card can be a citizen of India. A reading of the provisions of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, in particular, Section 9, clearly provides that the "Aadhaar Number or the Authentication thereof, shall not, by itself, confer any right of, or be proof of, citizenship or domicile in respect of the Aadhaar number holder". Section 3 of the Act, which deals with enrolment, only provides that "every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number by submitting his demographic and biometric information by undergoing the process of enrolment". Therefore, mere possession of an Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship, and despite the constitutional requirements, if the names of foreigners are retained in the electoral roll, the rolls to that extent would be void *ab initio*.

Understanding Russia's Taliban gauntlet

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On July 3, 2025, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced the recognition of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government, representing the culmination of Russia's recent overtures toward the Taliban. This followed the decision to upgrade diplomatic ties and officially accredit the Taliban's new ambassador, Gul Hassan, to Moscow. Now that the IEA flag is flying over the Afghan Embassy in Moscow, questions remain about the rationale behind Russia's choice to legitimise the Taliban regime.

A change, two decades later

Moscow's eagerness to cultivate diplomatic relations with the Taliban government stands in stark contrast to Russia's approach to the IEA's first iteration from 1996 to 2001. At that time, the Taliban were seen as hostile towards Russia. Moscow did not acknowledge their government and was forced to wind down its diplomatic presence in Afghanistan in 1997. Further, Russia provided military assistance to the Northern Alliance and helped its Central Asian allies stabilise the situation along the Afghan border against the terrorist threat.

Complicating matters further, the Taliban, in 2000, recognised the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria as an independent state and urged the Muslim world to declare a holy war on Russia to force it to stop its counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya. With an estimated 2,500 Chechen militants undergoing training in Taliban-controlled territories, Moscow considered launching "preventive strikes" on terrorist camps in Afghanistan.

In this context, it was unsurprising that Russia joined forces with the United States to adopt the United Nations' sanctions against the Taliban and provided logistical support to the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom, which was launched after 9/11. In 2003, the Taliban were included in the Russian list of terrorist organisations.

> Questions still remain about the rationale behind Moscow's choice to legitimise the Taliban regime

As the international counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan reached an impasse and the U.S. began to consider withdrawal, Moscow established unofficial contacts with the Taliban through its closer engagement with Pakistan in the early 2010s. This enabled Russia to protect its security interests in Afghanistan (with a focus on ensuring the safety of Russian citizens), collaborating against the Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K) and combating drug trafficking.

Additionally, in a balance act between the Afghan government and the Taliban, Russia stepped up its diplomatic efforts to position itself as a venue for resolving the Afghan crisis. Despite being blacklisted by the UN and outlawed in Russia, the Taliban representatives were invited to participate in the Moscow Format and intra-Afghan conferences, as Russia attempted to increase its own regional influence and edge the U.S. out from Afghanistan.

With the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, even as many other countries evacuated diplomatic personnel amid the lingering turmoil, the Russian Embassy in Kabul remained in operation – Moscow remained confident that the Taliban are capable of putting things in good order. Despite Russia's good rapport with the Taliban's dispensation, the persistent instability in Afghanistan has severely compromised its security interests, with terrorist attacks against the Russian Embassy in Kabul in September 2022 and the Crocus City Hall in Moscow in March 2024, purportedly carried out by the IS-K. There has been no meaningful progress in the economic projects either, though the Russian authorities continue to harbour hopes that Afghanistan will emerge as a conduit for Russian exports to South and Southeast Asia.

The basis

Russia's official recognition of the IEA government reflects Moscow's conviction that the Taliban are "an objective reality" and the only political force capable of controlling power in Afghanistan. This is further reinforced by the perception of the Taliban as Russia's "allies in countering terrorism", which seemingly laid the foundation for their de-listing in April 2025. It should be noted though that the Russian Supreme Court only suspended the ban on the Taliban activities, and the grouping is still on the Russian unified federal list of terrorist organisations. This suggests that the Russian security apparatus is not fully convinced by the Taliban's track record in combating terrorism, leaving scope to reverse the decision if the alliance with the Taliban proves to be a false dawn.

The IEA's recognition is a symbolic gesture that does not bring Russia any immediate benefits and does not guarantee any upgrade to Moscow's position in Afghanistan or the wider region. While some Russian officials are insisting on supporting the Taliban, including "arming them", it remains to be seen how far Moscow is willing to go and whether the joint fight against the IS-K will yield tangible results.

As Russia has set a precedent by recognising the IEA, some Central Asian states and even China may well follow suit, especially given that the Taliban's expectations of their partners will certainly increase. Moscow's free pass to the Taliban regarding the inclusivity of their government, as well as women's and minority rights, may become a new template for other regional players who will prioritise pragmatism over value-based approach.

Ties with India

India will unlikely be seriously affected by the Russian move. New Delhi has fostered its own incremental improvement in diplomatic ties with the Taliban, having recently found common ground with them on the issue of terrorism in Kashmir. It is likely that New Delhi will keep up diplomatic communications, trade and humanitarian cooperation with the IEA, without deviating from its stance on the legitimacy issue. Engagement without formal recognition still seems to be the likely trajectory of India's Afghanistan policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world and Gaza

It is unfortunate that the world does not seem to be moved by the fact that people of Gaza are facing acute starvation as a result of a genocidal war. Words such as 'humanity', 'conscience', 'empathy' and 'altruism' ring hollow in the context of collective global inaction. Aid airdrops without lifting the ground blockade of aid deliveries are only an eyewash and do not reverse the deepening crisis. The lack of disquiet is a reflection of the times we live in.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Donald Trump's record

Donald Trump's yearning for the Nobel Peace Prize is no secret. Yet, his record speaks more of ambition than achievement. In Ukraine, he hints at ending the war "in 24 hours", but neither Kyiv nor Moscow trusts his intentions. In Gaza, his stance is even less persuasive — offering little beyond hollow statements, while giving Israel a carte blanche.
His 'credit' for an India-Pakistan détente lacks conviction, repeated more out of habit than belief. Frustrated, Mr. Trump turns to Africa and Southeast Asia to tout his role in conflict de-escalation, but even these claims lack depth. And no less is his singular pursuit to be reckoned as a pioneer in dismantling the global economic order.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Sharp contrast

The narrative in the article, "On a tight leash in Mumbai" (Magazine – 'Openpage', July 27), evoked no surprise, as the stray dog menace exists across India. Last year I had been to Tennessee, in the U.S. to visit my son. There are no street dogs there but only pet dogs. When they are taken out for a walk there is a proper leash. The owner has to pick up waste with a scoop, which is then transferred to a cover and placed in a waste bin that is marked for such waste. A lot is to be learnt from foreign countries.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The need for doctor-led innovation

Dr Abdul Ghafur

Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital, Chennai, and Lead Strategist, QuorumVeda Consulting Services

Y.K.Gupta

National Scientific Co-ordinator, Pharmacovigilance Programme of India

The world of medicine is evolving at an unprecedented pace, fuelled by advancements in artificial intelligence, digital health, and personalised medicine. However, despite the transformative changes, medical professionals often find themselves on the periphery of innovation. Engineers and entrepreneurs increasingly shape the future of healthcare, while doctors are largely confined to their roles as service providers, rather than creators of new medical solutions. This paradigm needs to change if we are to foster the next generation of medical breakthroughs and solve the pressing challenges of our time.

Why doctors must innovate

Medical professionals, with their deep understanding of patient care, clinical workflows, and treatment protocols, are ideally positioned to drive innovation. Healthcare systems worldwide are under increasing pressure to meet the demands of rising patient populations, chronic diseases, and limited resources. By leveraging their insights, doctors can create solutions that address these systemic issues. Doctor-led innovation would ensure that new technologies are not only groundbreaking but also clinically applicable.

However, medical professionals face several obstacles in becoming entrepreneurs. The demanding nature of medical practice, combined with patient care and administrative responsibilities, leaves little time for innovation. Medicine is also inherently risk-averse, to ensure the safest possible care. This cautious mindset contrasts sharply with the risk-taking required in innovation. The discomfort with uncertainty and failure can deter doctors from pursuing entrepreneurship.

Moreover, a lack of exposure to financial management and product development further hinders doctors' transition into entrepreneurship. Medical education is primarily clinical, leaving professionals unprepared for the complexities of creating healthcare solutions. Many doctors also perceive innovation as the domain of engineers. Despite these challenges, successful examples of doctors who have become deep-tech entrepreneurs show that combining both areas is possible.

While starting a clinic or hospital is a form of entrepreneurship, the primarily focus is on conventional service delivery rather than disruptive innovation. While clinics and hospitals enhance healthcare access, they do not fundamentally transform medical practice. True innovation involves developing new treatment methods, medical devices, or digital health solutions that redefine patient care.

This means medical colleges must introduce courses in entrepreneurship, bio-design, and digital health. The curriculum should encourage entrepreneurial thinking alongside clinical practice. Interdisciplinary collaborations between medical and engineering students would enable doctors to understand product development while allowing engineers to gain clinical insights. Innovation hubs and incubators should support problem-solving in healthcare.

Internships in biotech incubators should be integrated into medical education, exposing doctors to startup environments and the commercialisation of healthcare innovations. Hospitals should establish innovation hubs to help doctors test new ideas. Mentorship programmes must connect medical professionals with engineers and funding sources to help them navigate regulatory pathways. Government incentives and streamlined regulatory processes should support med-tech startups to ensure financial and bureaucratic barriers do not stifle innovation.

In India, MedTech entrepreneurs benefit from a wide array of supportive systems aimed at fostering innovation and growth. Government initiatives such as the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, Startup India, and Atal Innovation Mission offer funding, grants, and infrastructure support, while incubators such as the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms, Venture Center, and the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre, provide mentorship, research and development facilities, and financial assistance. The Make in India initiative supports MedTech entrepreneurs by promoting local manufacturing, reducing reliance on imports, and offering incentives such as tax benefits and easier regulatory approvals for domestic production of medical devices. Academic collaborations with institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science drive innovation through research partnerships. The India Health Fund, supported by Tata Trusts, finances innovations in healthcare, particularly in infectious diseases.

The path forward

Innovation in healthcare is no longer optional; it is essential. Doctors must take charge, not just as caregivers but as entrepreneurs and problem-solvers. To facilitate this shift, medical professionals should enrol in short-term courses on product development. Hospitals and medical associations should foster an environment that is innovation-friendly by establishing dedicated funds and organising events where doctors can present ideas to investors. De-stigmatising failure in medical entrepreneurship is crucial. Just as failed experiments contribute to scientific progress, unsuccessful startups provide lessons for future success. The medical community must embrace calculated risk-taking and take ownership of healthcare's future. The white coat should not only represent clinical expertise but also leadership in healthcare innovation.

Engineers and entrepreneurs increasingly shape the future of healthcare, while doctors are largely confined to their roles as service providers, rather than creators of new medical solutions. This paradigm needs to change

Decoding the Jan Suraaj Party hype

The picture seems both encouraging and sobering for Prashant Kishor's party

STATE OF PLAY

Sanjay Kumar
Chandrachur Singh

Last year, Prashant Kishor transitioned from his consultant role into the dynamic arena of electoral politics. With Bihar going to the polls in October, it will be intriguing to observe how a strategist, believed to have masterminded some important political successes, will perform when he contests an election himself.

Mr. Kishor, leader of the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), points out four factors which makes the BJP a formidable electoral force: its Hindutva ideology that serves as an emotional anchor, Narendra Modi's grand narrative of India becoming a global superpower, the creation of millions of direct beneficiaries through welfare schemes, and the sheer financial and organisational strength of the party. Mr. Kishor has asserted that to defeat BJP, one would need to defeat it at least on three of the four accounts. So, how well placed is the JSP to challenge the BJP on these factors?

First, ideologically, the BJP's Hindutva claim isn't just a political position; it has become an emotional ecosystem that gives people identity, purpose, and a sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. The JSP's approach has been to focus on Bihar's regional identity and development aspirations while staying studiously secular. It is intellectually honest, sure, but could it be politically naïve given that religious identity in contemporary politics has become increasingly central to how people see themselves politically?

Second, Mr. Kishor's 'Bihar Badlav (Bihar Change)' campaign is receiving traction. The messaging is positive: Bihar doesn't need to wait for Delhi's permission to prosper; the State has its own strengths and possibilities. What it needs is leadership that believes in those possibilities. This seems to be resonating with some voters. This narrative is distinct from the BJP's nationalism and the traditional Opposition's criticism. Whether it is enough remains to be seen.

Third, pricking a hole in the BJP's beneficiary schemes may be tedious. When a farmer gets his PM Kisan installments, or when a woman gets her Ujjwala gas connection, or when a family gets healthcare through Ayushman Bharat, they are not just receiving benefits; they are entering into a relationship with the government that makes them stakeholders in its success. Can the JSP's promise be enough to attract the voters to vote for it?

Fourth, the ability of the JSP to match the BJP's and RJD's organisational structure needs to be looked at. The JSP has been able to create some ground level connects via its leaders' padyatra, but this will be put to test particularly closer to elections. The BJP-led NDA has financial resources, RSS volunteers, sophisticated data analytics, and technological infrastructure that can micro-target individual voters. The RJD has decades of organisational depth and established networks across every village in Bihar and JSP has Mr. Kishor's strategic mind. Will that be enough to challenge the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan?

Another important challenge for the JSP is about how the party will be able to challenge dynastic heirs such as Tejashwi Yadav and Chirag Paswan. What makes Mr. Yadav particularly formidable is his younger age, party's organisational strength, and experience. His welfare promises are specific and credible because he has the organisational capacity to deliver them. His focus on employment and migration directly addresses voters' primary concerns. And his consistent opposition to Nitish Kumar's alliance-hopping has given him a reputation for stability that the JSP, as a new entrant, cannot claim. The BJP may find it difficult to put up a young face given its present leadership in Bihar, but JD(U) might prop up a young face such as Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar or Manish Verma, a former IAS officer.

At this moment, the picture seems encouraging as the JSP is generating discussion and media attention, but also sobering, since Mr. Kishor may turn out to be an influential voice rather than a decisive force. In a fragmented electoral landscape, the JSP might eventually end up being a kingmaker if neither major alliance achieves a clear majority. This could provide it with disproportionate influence relative to its electoral performance and create opportunities for future growth.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at the Centre for Studies of Developing Societies and Chandrachur Singh is a Professor of Political Science at Hindu College, University of Delhi. Views expressed are personal

Bihar's migrants lack SIR documents

A recent survey shows that about 70% of migrant respondents from Bihar had no awareness of which documents were required to prove citizenship

DATA POINT

Anindita Adhikari
Rajendran Narayanan

On June 24, 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced a month-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar. The stated purpose of the exercise, according to the Chief Election Commissioner, was to "ensure that no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll". Further, anyone whose name was not in the 2003 electoral roll was required to submit at least one of 11 specified documents "as probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship". This implied that Biharis below the age of 40 years would have to fill forms and produce documents to "prove" their citizenship to be eligible to vote. Aadhaar, ration cards, voter identity cards (issued by the ECI) – which are most commonly available – are not among the 11 documents. Ten petitions are challenging the SIR order in the Supreme Court on grounds that the SIR order will disenfranchise lakhs of people. A key constituent that is at risk of such disenfranchisement are migrants. Estimates suggest that there are more than 74 lakh out-of-State migrants from Bihar.

The study

To assess awareness of the SIR process, availability of the 11 specified documents, and other challenges that migrants from Bihar are confronting in proving their eligibility to vote, the Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN) conducted a rapid phone survey. A report titled 'For a few documents more' based on the survey was released recently. SWAN is a volunteer-driven platform that provided relief to over 36,000 migrants during the COVID-19 lockdown and released three reports documenting the multi-dimensional distress that they had been put through.

The recent survey was conducted a week ago by 29 student volunteers. Calls were attempted to 1,411 workers of which the survey was completed for 338 workers. This is not a statistically representative survey but it sheds strong light on the documentation deficits faced by migrants and their risks of being disenfranchised.

About 95% of the surveyed workers were males who average age was 34 years. The majority were employed as factory or construction workers, and the median earnings were ₹14,500 per month. There was a near-perfect match between the share of Other Backward Classes in our sample (28.4%) and the share in the 2022 Bihar caste census. Scheduled Caste workers are 3% points under-represented in our sample, and those in the 'general' category are over-represented in our sample by 8% points. There is near-perfect parity in religious distribution in our sample and the 2011 Census.

Lack of awareness

Out of 219 respondents to the question on what documents were needed under SIR, 68% did not have accurate information. The affidavit filed by the ECI on July 21 mentions that the body has taken adequate steps in making online options available for migrants to submit enumeration forms. However, as **Chart 1** shows, 75% of migrants had never heard of the portal, and only two out of 248 had submitted the form online.

As per the SIR order, each booth-level officer must go door to door and visit at least three times in case the house was found to be locked. In our survey, only 53% said that some official had visited their house, while 23% said that no official had visited, and 24% did not know. Among those who said some official had visited their house, in 45% of the cases, the enumeration form along with either Aadhaar or voter ID was taken.

On the 'eligible' documents, our survey provides a drastically different picture compared to the ECI's claims in its affidavit. Page 39 of the ECI affidavit says that "13.89 crore residence certificates have been issued from 2011 to 2025." This is more than Bihar's estimated population of 13.7 crore. In our sample, just 32 out of 338 respondents have a residence certificate. The affidavit further states that more than 8.72 crore caste certificates have been issued in Bihar. **Charts 2 and 3** from our survey, disaggregated for those who are in Bihar right now and those away from Bihar, show that about 35% in our sample do not have any of the 11 SIR documents, while more than 8 out of 10 have voter ID and more than 96% have Aadhaar. To reiterate, the ECI makes the case against using Aadhaar and voter ID, even though these are most widely available.

Questioning the exercise

Unsurprisingly, then, a large fraction of the workers we spoke to questioned the necessity of the SIR and expressed a strong preference for the older process of using Aadhaar or existing voter IDs. One angry migrant worker said, "*Agar kisi ke paas document nahin hai, toh kahan jaayega? Gardan kaat ke leke aayen kya* (Where will somebody go if they don't have documents? Should they cut their heads and bring it?).

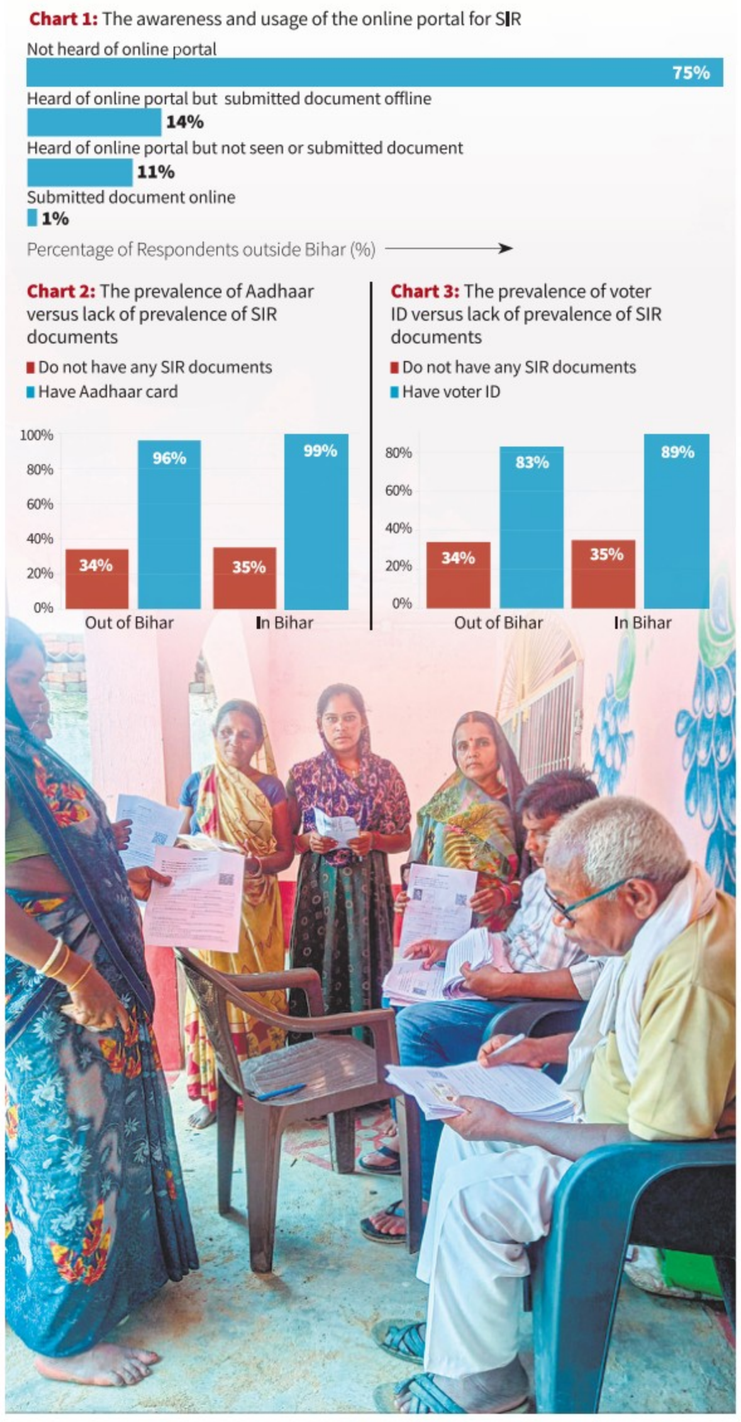
Minorities felt increased vulnerability at having to repeatedly prove their citizenship. One such worker compared these eligibility tests to "refreshing one's phone".

Notwithstanding the impracticality of such a hasty exercise, our interactions with migrant workers leads us to believe that the ongoing SIR exercise will disenfranchise lakhs of people. The survey suggests that the SIR exercise must be immediately revoked.

Anindita Adhikari is a Faculty, National Law School University of India, Bangalore. Rajendran Narayanan is a Faculty, Azim Premji University, Bangalore. This work is part of the SWAN. Views are personal

Concerning complexities

The data for the charts were sourced from a survey conducted by the Stranded Workers Action Network



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1975

Chinese theory on height of Everest

Tokyo, July 27: The exact height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest is 8,848.13 metres or 34 metres lower than the hitherto accepted figure of 3,882 metres. This has been determined by a team of Chinese surveyors and cartographers who accompanied the Chinese mountaineering expedition which reportedly ascended the peak last May, according to the official Hsinhua News Agency which gave some details of how the new height of Everest was determined, in a Peking despatch on Thursday.

The report said the Chinese surveyors and cartographers working in the face of extremely difficult conditions had succeeded in extending the national geodestic survey control network to the east main and west Rongbuk glaciers on the north slope of the mountain. They had carried out triangular traverse astronomical and gravity surveys at attitudes of 5,000 to 7,000 metres above sea level and counter checked the precise levelling of the area between Tingri and the Rongbuk monastery thus providing a reliable control basis for determining the height of Everest.

After a surveying pole had been erected on the summit and the thickness of the accumulated snow there measured, the surveyors and cartographers had proceeded to conduct simultaneous observation and survey from ten triangulation points located 7 to 21 km from the summit at altitudes of 5,600 to 6,300 metres. This operation had resulted in a complete set of data for mapping out the geographical location and the height of the peak.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1925

Hand-spinning in Cochin schools

Trichur, July 26: Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar, B.A., B.L., M.L.C., will move the following resolution in the ensuing occasions of the Cochin Legislative Council: That this Council recommends to the Government that in order that hand-spinning be revived as a supplementary industry among the people of the State, the Department of Education may be directed to take necessary steps to introduce hand-spinning as a compulsory handicraft in all the schools of the State.

From Page One

'SIR has become a tool to establish citizenship'

After the process started, the number of possible deletions from the voters' list kept increasing, and now it was about 65 lakh, he said.

The Opposition parties had flagged concerns over about two crore alleged deletions.

"The EC has made one very misleading and false claim that it has shared this with the political parties. We have received block-level data about pending enumeration forms, which were not submitted...had the details been shared with us, we could have cross-checked them before the draft was prepared...," Mr. Bhattacharya said, stating that no door-to-door visits had been made during the EC's exercise.

Mr. Bhattacharya also asked whether the EC's summary revision held in January 2025 was wrong, and if the claim of 22 lakh deaths was correct.

Describing it as the biggest exercise of "disenfranchisement since Independence", Mr. Jha said the EC had not consulted political parties on the SIR.

91.69% voters in Bihar submitted forms: EC

The exact status of these electors will be known after scrutiny of forms by the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officers by August 1. However, genuine electors can still be added back in the electoral rolls during the Claims and Objection period from August 1 to September 1. The names of the electors found enrolled at multiple places will be retained only at one place, the EC said.

The poll body said young electors who have attained 18 years of age on July 1, 2025, or would be attaining 18 years on or before October 1, 2025 are being encouraged to file their application in Form 6, along with the prescribed Declaration Form.

The commission said it would conduct special campaigns across Bihar from August 1 to September 1 to enrol such young electors, so that all eligible electors can be enrolled and no one is left out.

It said that SMSs explaining the SIR process were sent to 5.7 crore registered mobile numbers of all those electors who had registered their mobile numbers. During the enumeration period, the Chief Electoral Officer, District Election Officers and EROs conducted numerous campaigns for spreading awareness among electors about the SIR and also conducted several meetings with political parties to explain the process, and to keep them apprised of the progress of SIR.As per the SIR order, from August 1 to September 1, any elector or political party may fill the prescribed forms and submit claims to the ERO for any eligible elector who is left out or file objections for removal of any ineligible elector.

The SIR order on June 24 had said that the exercise would be carried out across the country beginning with Bihar. The contentious exercise has been challenged in the Supreme Court, with the hearing scheduled on July 28.

New co-op policy violates Constitution, says SKM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha alleged on Sunday that the National Cooperation Policy, unveiled by Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday, violates the Constitution, centralises power, and snatches rights of State governments.

It said the policy lacks the perspective to protect the rights of farmers and workers on livelihood, minimum support price, minimum wage and sharing of surplus. It urged the political parties and State governments to fight against the attack on cooperative federalism.

"The Union Cooperative Ministry is applicable only to the Union Territories and the Multi-State Cooperative Societies. In the true spirit, the Multi-State Cooperative Societies also violate the Constitutional provisions regarding cooperative societies. Such efforts are aimed at seizure of people's resources by the ruling class parties, especially the BJP-RSS. The trend of centralisation of power needs to be vehemently resisted," it said.

'CAPF troops with severe injuries to get full benefits'

Personnel who undergo amputation shall remain in service; the Centre will ensure the best tech and medical facilities for 'limb replacement surgery' for the injured, Union Home Secretary says

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel who get severely injured during operations and have to undergo amputation will be allowed to continue in service till their retirement with all benefits, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan said on Sunday.

Mr. Mohan said the government will ensure the best medical facilities and technology available in the world for "limb replacement surgery" for the CAPF officials and jawans, and it will be ensured that loss of limbs is corrected as far as possible.

"Government will also ensure a minimum financial package for such personnel and they will be accommodated in the organisation," Mr. Mohan said, while addressing the 87th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.

The CAPF personnel have to adhere to certain physical standards for timely promotion and services.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and CRPF D-G G.P. Singh (left) at the CRPF Raising Day in Delhi on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On the forefront

At least five CRPF personnel were grievously injured during a 21-day anti-Maoist operations on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border that concluded on May 11. Named 'Operation Black Forest', the combing operations were carried out in the Karegutta Hills (KGH).

The Home Secretary added that a large number of CRPF personnel, including women, have been deployed for law and order duty in Manipur after an ethnic conflict erupted in the State in May 2023. He said that during his recent visit to the State, he noticed that the personnel have to move from one location to another and face various hardships due to lack of adequate facilities.

"CRPF Director-General has been asked to submit a report on the facilities required for the jawans, particularly women. Home Ministry will ensure best facilities," Mr. Mohan said.

Left-wing extremism

He added that efforts are also under way to improve the living conditions at the camps in left-wing extremism (LWE) affected areas.

"CRPF is playing a key role in ending LWE menace before March 2026," he said, adding that 149 forward operating bases have been operationalised in the LWE areas, forcing the Maoists to retreat.

The official said that left-wing extremism is on the verge of its end in Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

He said Home Minister Amit Shah mentioned at the National Security Strategies Conference on Sunday that India's rising stature would lead to security challenges and the CAPFs would play an important role in thwarting those challenges.

ED searches conclude at firms linked to Anil Ambani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reliance Group firms Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) and Reliance Power (RPower) on Sunday said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had concluded searches on their premises and that the companies would continue to cooperate with the agency.

Both the Anil Ambani-led group's companies said they, including their officials, would continue to fully cooperate with the ED.

RInfra said: "Action by ED has no impact on the business operations, financial performance, shareholders, employees, or any other stakeholders of the company. The same appears to pertain to allegations concerning transactions of Reliance Communications Limited (RCOM) or Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) which are over 10 years old."

The ED began searching multiple premises linked to the group on Thursday over alleged money laundering and financial irregularities.

'External Affairs Ministry nearly lost the plot during Indus Waters Treaty talks'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry nearly "lost the plot" over the Indus Waters Treaty talks with Pakistan in 2016, as senior Ministry officials entered into a tussle with the World Bank, before the issue was retrieved. The claim has been made by former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, India-appointed Executive Director at the World Bank (2014-2017), in his latest book, which recounts for the first time the tensions between the Narendra Modi government and World Bank President Jim Kim over the Kishenganga hydropower project.

The point of contention was whether the World Bank, which has a limited role in guiding any disputes or differences between India and Pakistan, would decide to appoint the "court of arbitration"

Subhash Chandra Garg

Pakistan had asked for, or a "neutral expert", as India wanted.

In his new book, *No, Minister: Navigating Power, Politics and Bureaucracy with a Steely Resolve*, Mr. Garg says he was sidelined during the initial stages of the Indus Water Treaty negotiations in 2016. He also claims that he was told to only attend meetings to be led by India's Deputy Chief of Mission Taranjit Sandhu.

"[However], by the middle of November, the MEA team was getting nervous. It was not able to nudge the World Bank team in the direction it wanted, i.e., to appoint a neutral expert and began to sense that the Bank was tilting towards Pakistan," Mr. Garg wrote. The book claims that Mr. Jaishankar asked Mr. Garg to take charge of matters.

According to Mr. Garg, it was his own intervention, in a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Kim, that eventually helped ensure a neutral expert, Ian Solomon, was appointed, after the World Bank accepted Pakistan's demand for a court of arbitration at The Hague.

The World Bank had first ruled that having a neutral expert and court together could lead to "contradictory outcomes".

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a request for comments on Mr. Garg's claims.

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy and T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan)

CERT fixes website flaw that exposed sensitive data of voluntary organ donors

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A critical vulnerability in the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) website of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, that exposed sensitive data of voluntary organ donors across India along with their identity, health profile and contact details was detected and resolved, thanks to an independent security researcher who flagged the flaw.

ORBO is the nodal facility for cadaver organ and tissue donation-related activities of the AIIMS.

In mid-May, the researcher, Aniket Tomar, came across the vulnerability and alerted the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In an email about the critical data exposure, he said the vulnerability disclosed personally identifiable and medical information of registered organ and tissue donors without any authentication mechanism for accessing it.

The data leak provided access to all organ and tissue donors registered with the AIIMS.

The data leak provided unrestricted access to the complete list of organ and tissue donors registered with the AIIMS.

The information included full name, residential address, date of birth, blood group, mobile number and emergency contact details of the donor putting hundreds of individuals at significant risks of identity theft, phishing attacks, and social engineering exploitation.

"Such a data breach from a reputed medical institution not only undermines public trust in digital health systems but also violates data protection principles under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023," Mr. Tomar said in his alert to the CERT.

"I was able to view several lakh donor entries... The data was not limited to Delhi, the entries appeared to include donors from various regions across India, indicating a nationwide scope," Mr. Tomar told *The Hindu*.

On June 18, 2025, the CERT wrote to Mr. Tomar appreciating him for detecting the critical vulnerability.

The vulnerability was successfully mitigated and the exposed data were no longer publicly accessible, the researcher said.

Manipur town gets a sliver of hope from Myanmar children

Rahul Karmakar
MOREH

A border town in ethnic conflict-scarred Manipur is seeing a faint revival of activity, aided by a few education-seeking children from civil war-affected Myanmar.

A couple of pre-primary schools in Moreh, a town located on the India-Myanmar border, about 110 km southeast of Manipur's capital Imphal, began enrolling children from Myanmar in January. These schools, which offer free education, are run by the Border Trade & Chamber of Commerce and the Tamil Sangam.

The Tamil Sangam is an association largely comprising descendants of Tamils who fled a crackdown on non-natives following the 1962 military coup in Burma, now Myanmar.

Myanmar women sell rice during school hours, waiting for their wards. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Ethnic harmony

In line with Moreh's multi-ethnic character, the two organisations established three free educational centres named the All Community Welfare School in 1997. At present, two of these schools are operational. Most of its students were Meiteis who left with their families after conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities broke out on May 3, 2023.

"We did enrol 10 Myanmar students in 2024, but their attendance was erratic due to the situation on either side of the border. The 15 Myanmar students we admitted in January this year have been regular," Hempao Haokip, headmaster of the school in Ward No. 6, told *The Hindu*. The regular attendance of these children, and a few others at the second school in Ward No. 3, is attributed to their mothers, who accompany them to school at 8 a.m. and sell rice, vegetables, and other fram products while waiting for their classes to end at 1 p.m.

Centre rejects Cong. claims about organic cotton scam in M.P.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday termed the allegations by the Congress that normal cotton was being sold as organic cotton in Madhya Pradesh as being "unfounded, unsubstantiated and misleading", saying that the Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority takes concrete steps whenever wilful violations of organic cotton standards are found.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday called for a court-monitored CBI probe into an alleged ₹2.1 lakh crore scam in the sale of normal cotton as organic cotton in Madhya Pradesh.

"It may be mentioned that in a press briefing by an opposition leader yesterday, unfounded, unsubstantiated and misleading aspersions are being cast against the Organic Certification programme, the National Programme of Organic Production," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

"Generalised allegations against a robust regulatory system of the country for a particular crop/region/group of operators only serve to undermine the credibility of legitimate regulatory institutions and the broader organic movement in India," it added.

It said that new procedures have been devised for additional checks for certification of organic cotton production.

TCS to lay off over 12,000 employees this year; mid, senior-level staff to be hit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is set to lay off about 2%, or 12,261 employees, of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades.

As of June 30, TCS's workforce stood at 6,13,069. It increased its workforce by 5,000 employees in the April-June quarter.

As of June 30, 2025, workforce of TCS stood at 6,13,069.

AI deployment

"TCS is on a journey to become a future-ready organisation. This includes strategic initiatives on multiple fronts, including investing in new-tech areas, entering new markets, deploying AI at scale for our clients and ourselves, deepening our partnerships, creating next-gen infrastructure, and realigning our workforce model," the company said in a statement.

"As part of the journey, we will also be releasing associates from the organisation whose deployment may not be feasible. This will impact about 2% of our global workforce, primarily in the middle and senior grades, over the course of the year," it said.

TCS will provide appropriate benefits, outplacement, counselling, and support to the impacted employees, it added.

The move comes at a time when India's top IT services companies have delivered single-digit revenue growth in Q1FY26, capping off a somewhat-sobering June quarter as macroeconomic instability and geopolitical tensions weighed on global tech demand and delayed client decision-making.

For TCS, the revenue rose 1.3% year-on-year to ₹63,437 crore, bottomline improved 5.9% to ₹12,760 crore in Q1FY26.

Inter-State synthetic drug syndicate busted, 3 held

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), along with the police in Rajasthan and Maharashtra, has busted an inter-State drug syndicate allegedly involved in the clandestine manufacture of synthetic drugs.

On July 22, several precursor chemicals, including chloroform, ammonium chloride, propylene chloride, toluene and bromine used to manufacture Mephedrone were recovered from a laboratory located in a secluded village in Rajasthan's Barmer district, the NCB said.

Interrogation of two members held in the raid led to the arrest of one more person by the Raigad police in Maharashtra.

LS debate today; Cong. says those behind J&K attack yet to be held

Better late than never, says Jairam Ramesh on Parliament debate on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor; from May 10, Trump has claimed 26 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening to cut off trade, Cong. leader says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Lok Sabha scheduled to start a 16-hour debate on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor on Monday, the Congress on Sunday said the terrorists involved in the attack had not yet been apprehended.

The party also pointed out U.S. President Donald Trump had claimed 26 times that he had ended the India-Pakistan hostilities by "threatening to stop trade with them".

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to speak on Tuesday during the debate. "The INC had been demanding a special two-day session of Parliament immediately after Operation Sindoor was abruptly halted. That demand was ignored. Nevertheless, better late than never," Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said.

> The Congress had been demanding a special two-day session of Parliament immediately after Operation Sindoor was abruptly halted. That demand was ignored
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

"The Pahalgam terror attacks took place on April 22, 2025. The terrorists directly responsible have still not been brought to justice. Reportedly they were involved in earlier terror attacks in Poonch (Dec 2023) and Gangagir and Gulmarg (Oct 2024)," he added.

"Since May 10th, President [Donald] Trump has claimed 26 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening to cut off trade with India, and claimed that five fighter jets may have been shot down. He has hosted the Pakistan Army Chief for lunch which has never been done before. The U.S. Central Command Chief, Gen. Michael Kurilla, had called Pakistan a phenomenal partner in counter-terrorism operations. And just day before yesterday the U.S. Secretary lauded Pakistan in his meeting with its Deputy PM," Mr. Ramesh said.

Referring to points that are likely to be raised by Opposition members in the debate, he recalled that on May 30, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan had made significant revelations in Singapore on tactical mistakes in the first two days of Operation Sindoor, and on June 29, the Indian defence attache in Indonesia, Group Captain Shiv Kumar, had said that political decisions had hampered military operations.

"On July 4, 2025, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Rahul R Singh, revealed that India had actually contended and battled China during Operation Sindoor, both in terms of hardware and software. This was a completely new scenario," Mr. Ramesh further said.

He said that "the outlandish claims made by sections of the media during Operation Sindoor led to a mockery of whatever serious narrative was sought to be built up".

Heritage conservationist Tara Murali, 75, passes away

She was known for pursuing public causes, promoting civic rights, heritage conservation, and environmentalism

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tara Murali, 75, architect and wife of N. Murali, Director of The Hindu Group of Publications and president of The Music Academy, passed away at their home in Chennai late in the evening of Saturday. She had been ailing for some time.

She is survived by her husband, their son Krishna Murali, their daughter Kanta Murali, three grand-children, and her elder brother, Ramesh Pattabhiraman.

Tara Murali

Tara Murali was schooled at Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Churchpark in Chennai, did her pre-university course at Stella Maris College, and took her Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Madras. She had an active architectural practice over four decades and pursued public causes related to town planning, and environmental and consumer protection. Among the causes she has taken up were the conservation of Palani Hills, protection of heritage buildings including the Director General of Police's office, and Queen Mary's College.

Thoroughly secular and modern in outlook, she had varied interests: music, literature, environment, heritage and consumer action. She served for several years as a Trustee of the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), was a member of the Broadcast Complaints Council and INTACH governing council, and was active in book groups. She was President of the Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Association and also of the Table Tennis Players Welfare Association. She translated Ma. Po. Sivagnanam's Tamil book on Veerapandiya Kattabomman into English.

The cremation will be at the Besant Nagar crematorium on Monday.

Eastern palette to find expression in President's invitation for 'At Home'

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The invitation sent in President Droupadi Murmu's name for her customary evening reception, or "At Home", on the 79th Independence Day will showcase the skills of craftspersons from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal – a nod to eastern India, following a similar gesture toward southern India during this year's Republic Day celebrations.

The invitations have been curated by the National Institute of Design (NID) and produced with contributions from artisans across the four States. Most of the artisans, many of them women, worked alongside the NID team. Of them, nine Madhubani artists from Bihar and 15 bamboo artisans from Jharkhand worked out of the NID Bengaluru campus.

Ashok Kumar Biswas, Padma Shri awardee in 2024 and the artist entrusted with producing nearly 750 pieces of Tikuli artwork from Bihar to accompany the invitation, says the brief from NID – which coordinated the initiative with the Rashtrapati Bhavan – was precise.

"They wanted a lightweight example of Tikuli painting, which is usually based on scenes of rural life in Bihar or cultural and religious motifs, festivals, etc. They asked for three types of samples: on the traditional Tikuli base of MDA [dark brown in colour] with enamel paint, on handmade paper, and on small pieces of cardboard and plywood. I prepared a fourth sample, on paper, made to look like the dark brown Tikuli base, and sent it off. They approved the fourth sample and asked for 750 pieces to be sent in 15 days, which we completed at the Tikuli training centre that I run," he said.

Unique work: A Sikki grass artisan from Bihar working on the box designed as a part of the invitation kit. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is a matter of great pride for me to be asked to do this by the President of India's office, for an occasion like Independence Day. It's a good initiative that places India's folk art at the centre of the Republic," he added.

The invitation will be encased in a Sikki grass box made by artisans from Raiyam village in Madhubani district, with 30 artists involved in the work. Woven delicately from Sikki grass, the box will contain a bamboo frame holding the invitation itself, with painted borders by artists from Dumka in Jharkhand.

In addition to the box and frame, the invitation set includes small artefacts such as a bookmark featuring Madhubani painting, and a tussar stole with Madhubani painting and traditional block printing of symbols such as *Matsya* (fish), *Kamal* (lotus), and *Basant* (spring). Also included are Tala Patachitra paintings by artisans from Raghurajpur in Puri, postcard-sized Patachitra paintings by artists from Pingla in West Midnapore, Paitkar paintings from East Singhbhum in Jharkhand, and postcard-sized Tikuli artworks from Patna.

No clarity yet on grant of citizenship under CAA

Vijaita Singh
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

More than a year after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 took effect, the Home Ministry has refused to share data on the total number of those who benefited from the Act.

A BJP MP from West Bengal told *The Hindu* that fewer than 100 people in his constituency had received citizenship under the CAA, though the number of intended beneficiaries, mostly belonging to the Matua sect, was around 1 lakh. There are around 2.8 crore people from the Matua and Namasudra communities who stand to benefit from the CAA in the State.

The CAA Rules were notified on March 11, 2024 to give citizenship to undocumented members of Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Jain, Buddhist and Christian communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh under the Act that was passed in 2019.

Ranaghat MP Jagannath Sarkar told *The Hindu* that the requirement to submit any one document, which will help trace an applicant's roots to Bangladesh, should be dropped and the cut-off date for applying under CAA should be amended too. The existing cut-off date is December 31, 2014.

"Most people do not have any of the documents sought by the Home Ministry to fulfil citizenship criteria. These people came to India to escape persecution, with barely any belongings. How will they provide documents?" Mr. Sarkar said.

Following reports from West Bengal, Schedule 1A of the CAA Rules was tweaked on July 8 2024, and the list of nine documents to prove that the applicant is a national of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan was expanded to include any document issued by the State or the Centre or quasi-judicial authority in India identifying or representing the applicant or their parents or grandparents or great-grandparents as a national of these three countries.

Processing applications

Anticipating non-cooperation in Opposition-ruled States, the CAA Rules entrusted Central government officials posted in States, including officials of the Directorate of Census, Postal Department, Railways, National Informatics Centre and Intelligence Bureau, to process applications. On April 2, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha that "thousands were granted citizenship", while responding to Trinamool Congress member Sushmita Dev's remarks that merely 350 people had got it. The Minister did not specify the number.

The Ministry has refused to share information on how many people had either applied or had been granted citizenship. *The Hindu* filed a Right to Information Act application in June 2024. In September 2024, the Ministry refused to provide the information.

CAPITAL REGION URBAN TRANSPORT
Govt of Odisha
Plot No 548/1452, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751031, Odisha
Phone No. 0674-3501580, E-Mail Id :- crutbbsr@gmail.com

No. 1671 Date: 24.07.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) - BID IDENTIFICATION No.1671/G.M (Engg.)/CRUT/of 2025-26

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Managing Director, CRUT invites percentage rate bids in **DOUBLE COVER SYSTEM** conforming to the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) from Electrical Contractors having valid H.T. license registered under Government of Odisha and having PAN, GSTIN Certificate and valid EPF & ESI registration certificate with up to date payment till June'2025 for the item of works as indicated in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Class of Contractor	EMD (In ₹)	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1.6MVA 33/0.4KV Conventional on load tap changing Sub-station to effect power supply 2360KW/3280KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Naraj, Cuttack. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	₹ 1,96,32,670.00	H.T. License	1% of the Estimated Cost	₹ 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixty days)
2.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1.6MVA 33/0.4KV Conventional on load tap changing Sub-station to effect power supply 2360KW/3280KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar. (Under P.M e-Bus Seva)	₹ 1,96,32,670.00	H.T. License	1% of the Estimated Cost	₹ 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixty days)

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 01.08.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 21.08.2025
2. Bids shall be received only "On line" on or before 5.30 P.M. of 21.08.2025. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
4. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.
5. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation shall only be uploaded in the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar
(on behalf of M.D, CRUT, Bhubaneswar)

C-754: OIPR-13183/11/0048/2526

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
kerala it EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Tender No: ETPK/TC/227/2025-26
e-Tender ID: 2025_ETPK_764002_1

The last date of bid submission for the work of **'Construction of an IT Office building under 'QUAD' project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) campus, Trivandrum'** has been extended upto **04-08-2025, 5 PM.**

For further details, please visit **http://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Date: 28-07-2025 Chief Executive Officer,
Trivandrum Technopark

D3/556/2025

Er. Arabinda Tripathy
Chief General Manager (P&C)

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

IDCO/SFP/34/2025 21477 Date: 21.07.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - P&C/ EST/ E - 32/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms/Agencies through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha for **"Operation, Maintenance & Management of Flake Ice Unit and Cold Storage at Primary Processing Centre (PPC) of Sea Food in Kimilo, Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha"**.

Firms/Agencies having experience in day-to-day operation, maintenance & management of Cold Storage/Block Ice/ shrimp processing business are only invited to submit their proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Govt.of Odisha from **17:00 Hours of Dt.02.08.2025 to 17:00 Hours of Dt.25.08.2025.**

The **pre-bid meeting will be held on Dt.13.08.2025 at 11:30 Hours** (Pre bid query must be submitted through mail id **cgmpc@idco.in** before prebid meeting).

The Technical Bid will be opened online on **26.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M.** IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager (P&C)**

CAD-1256: OIPR-14003/11/0219/2526

Raj Thackeray visits Uddhav on birthday amid talks of a tie-up

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With speculation on of a potential alliance between the parties led by them, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray visited Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav at his residence on Sunday on the former Chief Minister's 65th birthday.

The cousins spent at least 20 minutes together.

Mr. Uddhav called it an "overwhelming moment", while Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav said, "It is the happiest and hopeful moment from the Marathi *manoos* perspective."

The meeting is seen as significant as it comes at a time when the Thackeray cousins are reportedly in talks to reunite for the local elections in Maharashtra.

Mr. Jadhav reiterated that the meeting was a full stop to all the doubts about whether the cousins would come together. "Besides, alliance talks need to be confidential and held with utmost seriousness," he added.

This is the second time within a month that the Thackeray cousins had shared a political stage. They held a "victory" rally in Worli on July 5, after raising their voice on the issue of Marathi identity and "imposition" of Hindi.

सी.एस.आई.आर. – भारतीय रासायनिक जीवविज्ञान संस्थान
CSIR- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
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CSIR-IICB

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, a premier Institute under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is involved in generating cutting edge knowledge and trained human resources in the field of chemical biology, biochemistry, cell biology, genomics, epigenomics, structural biology, bioinformatics and medicinal chemistry to address fundamental and applied biological and biomedical research questions associated with infectious and non-infectious diseases that are relevant to this country and in the global context.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Post and Vacancy Code	No. of Posts, reservation status, age limit & Pay Level	Essential Qualification
1	**Junior Secretariat Assistant (Gen)** Vacancy Code : 6052501	**Vacancy : 01 (UR)** Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	10+2/XII or its equivalent and proficiency in computer type speed and in using computer as per the prescribed norms fixed by DOPT from time to time.
2	**Junior Secretariat Assistant (F&A)** Vacancy Code : 6052502	**Vacancy : 03 UR (Including 01 ex-servicemen)** Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	
3	**Junior Secretariat Assistant (S&P)** Vacancy Code : 6052503	**Vacancy : 02 (UR)** Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	
4	**Junior Stenographer** Vacancy Code : 6052504	**Vacancy : 02 (UR-01, SC-01)** Age : 27 years* Pay Level - 4, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	10+2/XII or its equivalent and proficiency in stenography as per the prescribed norms fixed by DOPT from time to time.

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Controller of Administration

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of The Engineer-In-Chief, 2nd Floor,Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA(UFW)/2407/2025-26		**Date:25.07.2025**
1	Operation and Maintenance of EMF Flowmeters and its allied works installed in Phase II network coming under AEE(UFW)-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 398.45 Lakhs / Rs. 5.98 Lakhs
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA(UFW)/2409/2025-26		**Date:25.07.2025**
2	Operation and Maintenance of EMF Flowmeters and its allied works installed in Phase I network coming under AEE(UFW)-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 398.47 Lakhs / Rs. 5.97 Lakhs
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA/2411/2025-26		**Date:25.07.2025**
3	Mordenization and Remodelling of Water Supply systems in Balajinagar, Bhovi Colony, Jogi Colony in Suddaguntepalya area (missing bits) and Madarsab Layout, Gurappanapalya Main Road, coming under AEE(SE)-6 Sub Division.	Rs. 396.22 Lakhs / Rs. 5.94 Lakhs

For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: **11.08.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.** Technical Tenders will be opened on: **12.08.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/2035/2025-26

INBRIEF

Cong. slams govt. over vacant SC, ST posts in universities

The Congress on Sunday slammed the Centre over vacant reserved posts for SCs, STs, and OBCs in central universities and alleged that the "not found suitable" clause was being "weaponised" against these categories to deny fair employment opportunities. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh cited a written reply by Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar, to attack the government. In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh said the Modi government has revealed the staggering level of vacancies among SC, ST, and OBC reserved faculty positions in central universities. PTI

Khadse's son-in-law among seven held in Pune drug raid

The arrest of Pranjal Khewalkar, the son-in-law of NCP-SP leader Eknath Khadse, and six others at a party in Pune over alleged possession of narcotic substances has stirred up a political storm in Maharashtra. The Opposition criticised the arrest, calling it a "message" to those speaking against the government, while Mr. Khadse termed it "a politically motivated conspiracy". The police said cocaine-like drugs, 70 gm of marijuana, 10 mobile phones, two four-wheelers, a hookah, and liquor were seized.

Textile sector is emerging as strength of the country: Modi

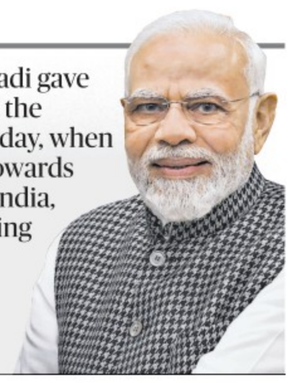
In *Mann Ki Baat* address, PM says start-ups are lending global stature to India's handloom identity; he also underscores the rising interest in science among children post-Chandrayaan-3 launch

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the textile industry, which was an expression of India's cultural diversity, now had more than 3,000 active start-ups, and the driving force behind its rapid growth were women from villages, designers from cities, elderly weavers, and young entrepreneurs.

During the *Mann Ki Baat* address, Mr. Modi said start-ups had given global stature to India's handloom identity. Commenting on the 10th anniversary of National Handloom Day, which is celebrated on August 7 every year to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi movement in 1905, he said, "Just like Khadi gave new strength to the freedom movement ..., today as the country progresses towards becoming a developed nation, the textile sector is turning out to be the country's strength."

> Just like our Khadi gave new strength to the freedom movement... today, when the country is moving towards becoming a developed India, the textile sector is turning out to be the strength of the country
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister



"In these 10 years, lakhs of people associated with this sector have scripted many success stories," he said, citing the example of Kavita Dhawale from Paithan village in Maharashtra, who, with government support, is now earning three times more by selling self-made Paithani saris. About 650 tribal women from Mayurbhanj (Odisha) have revived the Santhali sari. The family of Naveen Kumar from Nalanda (Bihar), who has been associated with the sector for generations, has incorporated a modern approach to transform the business.

Referring to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's return from space, Mr. Modi said the entire country was filled with pride. He said the Inspire-Manak Abhiyan scheme – in which five children are selected from each school – had promoted innovation among youngsters. After Chandrayaan-3's launch, the number of children joining the campaign had doubled. The number of start-ups in the space sector grew from 50 to 200 in just five years.

The Prime Minister praised Devesh Pankaj, Sandeep Kuchi, Debdutt Priyadarshi, and Ujjwal Kesari for winning medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad.

Mr. Modi also spoke about 12 Maratha forts which have been recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

Paying homage to Khudiram Bose, the 18-year-old freedom fighter who was hanged on August 11, 1908, in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, Mr. Modi said, "Inside the jail, British officers were preparing to hang a young man. There was no fear on the face of that youth; rather it was full of pride ..."

On wildlife conservation, the Prime Minister said that for the first time, a grassland bird census had been conducted in Kaziranga National Park (Assam) and 40 species were identified using sound recording devices and AI.

On the cleanliness drive, he said this year, more than 4,500 cities and towns had joined and over 15 crore people participated all over the country. " ... Amid the showers of Sawan, the country is once again going to be adorned by the fervour of festivals.... many best wishes to all of you for these holy festivals," he added.

NMC bars use of live surgery broadcasts for promotional gain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The guidelines say patients with high-risk procedures should not be included in live broadcasts.

Live broadcasts should not be used for promoting the operating surgeon, hospital, or product brand, and surgeons should not have a financial or commercial interest in the equipment or devices used during surgery or procedures, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has said in detailed guidelines issued this week to regulate the conduct and broadcast of live surgeries.

Issuing specific instructions for patient selection, the commission said that patients with high-risk procedures, incomplete investigations, or unusual anatomy should not be included in live broadcasts. Also, financial incentives for participation should not be permitted. The process of informed consent should be conducted by the operating surgeon or team and the patient has the right to withdraw consent at any time.

It added that live broadcasts can be provided for new procedures, while recordings should be preferred for established procedures or high-risk cases.

"Patients can be enrolled in insurance coverage to safeguard against any unforeseen incidents. However, patients should be informed about the availability and limitations of this insurance. Any surgery/procedure-related complications should be managed free of cost," it said. It added that during surgery or procedures, the operating doctor can broadcast but should not interact with the audience to maintain focus on the patient's safety. "Relevant step-wise live commentary by an operating surgeon can be permitted without any two-way communication with the audience in special situations," the directive stated.

'We have to acknowledge that Mughal period saw violence'

The head of the Curricular Area Group for social science textbooks, which works with NCERT, says previous attempts at writing textbooks have whitewashed such aspects unnecessarily; he says Britain has not recognised sufficiently the tremendous amount of suffering it inflicted not only on India but also on most of its colonies; textbook development team experienced zero political pressure, he says

INTERVIEW

Michel Danino

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Michel Danino, guest professor (archaeological sciences) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, and head of the Curricular Area Group for social science textbooks, which works in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), speaks about the process of designing new social science textbooks for middle school and the controversies surrounding the portrayal of the Mughals and the colonial era in the new Class 8 textbook. Edited excerpts:

A debate has arisen about the portrayal of Mughals in the new Class 8 NCERT textbook with their rule being called 'a blend of both brutality and tolerance'. Elaborate on an attempt to reframe portrayal of Delhi Sultanate and Mughals in the new textbook.

We did speak of brutality and tolerance, though we did not highlight these two words. They were caught by the media. It is a fact that this is a period which sees a lot of violence, and we have been pretty mild about it. If you look at Muslim texts like *Baburnama* or *Akbarnama,* there is no doubt that these conquests were very violent. In the initial stages, this violence was not limited to India. The Turkic, Mughal, and Afghan powers warred against each other, in the Indian subcontinent as well as in Central Asia, sometimes in Persia and beyond. This has to be acknowledged as a fact of history. We feel that preceding attempts (at writing textbooks) often have been whitewashing some of these aspects unnecessarily. We have tried to show the complexity of their personality (the Mughals).

What was the thought behind putting the note on 'History's Darker Periods' at the beginning of the history section. Also, there was an example of the Second World War and Nazi atrocities. Please explain.

It is more of a preparatory note for the student who suddenly would be exposed to unpleasant events of the past. This phase is in the so-called medieval period and the colonial era where there are famines, millions of deaths. The Second World War is the most striking example you can take where there were untold atrocities. And yet we find that a few years after the Second World War,

Germany is on good terms with most of the European powers, including those that Nazi Germany had mistreated. It is possible because the facts were faced and accepted, because there was no attempt to deny them. We are not trying to parallel this with anything in the Indian past, but it's only by looking honestly at history that you can find the key to healing, you know, the suffering. Because there is a government in place, in the U.K. too. And it is not unknown that there had been trillions of dollars of drain of wealth that has also been very well documented, from British rule to Britain. I feel that Britain has not recognised sufficiently the tremendous amount of suffering that it inflicted not only on India but also on most of its colonies. I will not discuss the question of reparation, which is a separate question, but at least an honest admission of guilt, of the abuse, atrocities and economic plunder that took place during the colonial period, is something that we have not seen to a desired extent.

The new Class 8 social science textbook, unlike older versions, has no mention of Tipu Sultan or Haider Ali. On the other hand, there is an entire chapter dedicated to the rise of Marathas and Shivaji's exploits. What was the thought behind introducing a new chapter on Marathas?

For events like the Anglo-Mysore Wars you have to give the student enough context for that event to become meaningful. You can't just drop names like Tipu Sultan and Haider Ali. However, there are four more years after Class 8 where the working groups can take certain themes (which were missed out), and the gaps will be somewhat filled in the later years, hopefully.

It is very well known among historians that the division between Hindu, Muslim, and then the British period is absolutely not valid. We wanted to show that this was not a straightforward story and there was a lot of resistance. We could only very briefly mention the case of the Ahoms in Assam and the Sikh Empire.

We selected the Marathas for bigger treatment because it is a fact that they were the ones who ultimately managed to build, though briefly, an empire which spread over a very large portion of India, since their influence extended to Delhi and even beyond to what is today's Pakistan.

They stymied multiple attempts by Mughals to conquer South India. Aurangzeb spent more than 25 years stuck in the Deccan. He was able to return to Delhi mostly because he was blocked by the Maratha campaigns.

I am just explaining the statement which we made in the textbook that was deliberately a little bit provocative – maybe the British conquered India more from the Marathas than from the Mughals.

There are rumours that there could be interference of the right wing in directing the trajectory of the new textbooks. Does the development of new textbooks mean that there is a reshaping of political ideology?

So the media loves these stories, and finding a political axe to grind is always very tempting. Our textbook development team has experienced zero political pressure from the government or from any right wing channel or personality whatsoever. We have been left free to work the way we thought we should work under the National Education Policy, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework mandate.

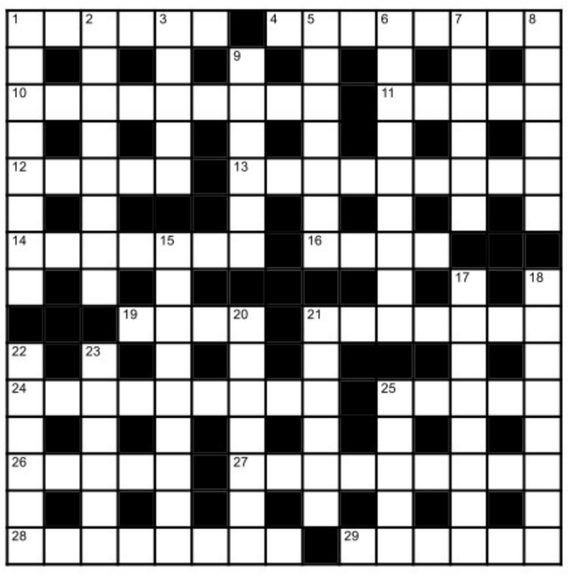
Full interview is available at newsth.live/micheldanino

TH CROSSWORD + 14548

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Sailor and a copper at second counter (6)
4 Avoids Mark in a book shop at the entrance (8)
10 Accuracy of abstract is oddly suspicious for starters (9)
11 Criminal and US General are similar (5)
12 Attempts to reset implement, engineer succeeds as per sources (5)
13 Tamil leader's party led over Labour and advanced (9)
14 Private party in dubious trade is deceived (7)
16 Domestic servant in brothel parties (4)
19 No rules for birds and animals (4)
21 Note; learner in contest is a wonder (7)
24 Disclosed by former media editor (9)
25 Tips, tips to cheat ladies, use emotions slyly (5)
26 Staff are Europeans (5)
27 Your tea is inside, behind sedans, oddly not on furniture (4,5)
28 Sit awkwardly in gown, say causes anxiety (8)
29 Gorilla spotted in Puerto Rico, Sun records (6)

Down

1 Passion of a prince's small (8)
2 New camera is displaying a landmass (8)
3 Constituents of world organisation has appeal (5)
5 Unbecoming of Ben; digging a hole in the centre of ground (7)
6 Tourist in 13 leaves daughter for lover at last (9)
7 Cold spike causes licorice to lose its core and wither (6)
8 Rates of grains? Add a penny (6)
9 Matched with female with appeal, to enjoy delightfully primarily (6)
15 Teacher (female) replaces a chip in the front in computer, say (9)
17 Perfect car, a cute model (8)
18 Evaluates same combination, will be over for certain (8)
20 Doctor sets my son's routines (7)
21 Majority of French inside are humble (6)
22 Assisted to pay attention to record stored inside (6)
23 Retreat to borders, heartless lieutenants causes accidents (6)
25 Bean companies active (5)

SUDOKU

					5		8	
	5					2		
6	9	8		2				
	2			8		1		
3	8	5				9	4	6
		4		9			2	
				7		4	6	8
		2					5	
	1		3					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6594 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	1	7	8	3	4	2	6
8	4	6	1	9	2	5	7	3
3	7	2	5	4	6	1	9	8
6	3	7	4	2	8	9	5	1
1	8	9	6	5	7	2	3	4
4	2	5	3	1	9	6	8	7
2	1	4	8	3	5	7	6	9
7	5	8	9	6	1	3	4	2
9	6	3	2	7	4	8	1	5

FAITH

Efficacy of Adi Puram

Andal, or Goda, manifested in the Tamil month of Adi, under the Pooram star, in Srivilliputtur, in the tulasi garden of Vishnu Chittar, also known as Periyazhwar, who was devoutly serving the resident deity, Vatapatrasayi. Andal composed the Tiruppavai (30 verses) and Nacchiyar Tirumozhi (143 verses). Andal's Tiruppavai has the essence of all the Vedas, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

It highlights the importance of surrendering to Bhagavan, singing His divine names, and being subservient to the devotees of the Lord. Just as Krishna's discourse is called Gitopanishad, Andal's Tiruppavai is revered as Godopanishad (the Upanishad of Goda). The great preceptor Ramanuja always used to chant Tiruppavai and hence came to be renowned as Tiruppavai Jeeyar. The verses of Tiruppavai played a vital role in helping Ramanuja explain the tenets of Visishtadvaitam to disciples.

Growing up, Andal expressed her devotion to Lord Vatapatrasayi by adoring herself with the garland meant for the deity, before it was offered to Him. When Periyazhwar found out, he admonished Andal and did not offer any garland to the deity on that day. However, that very night, Perumal appeared in Periyazhwar's dream and demanded to know why He was not offered the garland. When Periazhwar explained that it was desecrated because his daughter wore it, Vadapatrasayi said, "It is consecration, not desecration," and sought the Andal-worn garland as a daily offering. When Andal insisted on marrying Ranganmannar, the archa murti at Srirangam asked Periazhwar to bring her to His sanctum, wherein She attained eternal service at His lotus feet.

ASKUS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Q I am a retired bank officer aged 70. I have a health insurance policy with a coverage of ₹4 lakh under a special scheme of IBA (Indian Bankers Association). The maximum coverage for family is ₹4 lakh under the scheme. Top-up to a maximum of ₹5 lakh is available. I want to have a coverage of minimum ₹20 lakh for me and my wife. Kindly advise.
M. GOPINATHAN

A The policy, which you have currently, might be a group health insurance policy designed for retired bank staff. The policy might not be customisable or might be subject to negotiations between IBA and unions. Against this backdrop, it is advisable to take a separate individual health policy, in addition to your bank policy, with a basic coverage (Sum Insured) of ₹5 lakh. If you cannot afford this additional individual base policy, you can go with your bank policy itself. But, having a individual health policy has more benefits.

For a coverage of up to ₹20 lakh, you can buy a super-top up health insurance policy, with a deductible of ₹5 lakh, if you purchase an individual base policy for this amount. If you prefer to use only the bank policy, then your deductible amount for the super top-up policy must be ₹4 lakh only.

There are two top-up policies available in the market viz. top-up and super top-up.

Both are completely different. For a complete understanding about the difference between the two policies, you can refer to the Moneywise article titled 'Top-up vs. super top-up' dated March 17, 2025. The premium cost for the super-top up health insurance policy is costly when compared with the top-up policy. Still, for your age, it is advisable to buy the super top-up policy to avail maximum benefits. Most health insurance companies offer both the policies, but you need to be careful to check whether you are really buying the super top-up policy. You can also buy an individual health insurance base policy with the Sum Insured of ₹20 lakh but that is highly expensive, and we would not suggest it.

Q I am 73 years old. I want to sell my 4-cent land purchased in 2007. What will be my tax liability under the Income Tax Act.
SIVANANDAN

A In the Union Budget 2024-2025, presented on July 23, 2024, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said long-term capital gains on all financial- and non-financial assets will attract a tax rate of 12.5%. However, in her Budget speech, she did not explicitly mention that the reduced 12.5% (from the earlier 20%) tax rate on LTCGs is without the indexation benefit.

Later, on August 7, 2024, the Finance Bill 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha with an amendment that gave a relaxation to the new capital gains tax on real estate. The amendment was introduced after widespread criticism from various corners, including Opposition parties and tax professionals. As per the amendment, individuals or Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who purchased houses or other immovable property before July 23, 2024, have two options regarding the treatment of long-term capital gains and they can choose any one option that is suitable for them. First option is they can choose to pay straight 12.5% tax on the capital gains without claiming the indexation benefit. Or the second option is that they can choose to pay 20% tax on capital gains, after claiming the indexation benefit.

Further, according to the Income Tax Act and as per the Union Budget 2024-25, if you have owned an immovable property (land) for more than two years (24 months), then it is considered a long-term asset. In your case, you have purchased the land in 2007 and therefore, if you earn capital gains by selling the land, it will be considered Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG). Since you have purchased before the July 23, 2024 window, you can choose any one of the tax rates - 12.5% on capital gains without indexation or 20% on capital gains with indexation benefit. The choice is yours.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified wealth manager)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAINATH B.

India's emerging shield against the climate crisis

As extreme events become more frequent and harder to predict, conventional insurance models need a fundamentally different approach ; parametric insurance offers an alternative

CLIMATE OF SAFETY

Tarun Mathur

In the span of a few days, Himachal Pradesh was battered by over 20 flash floods, series of landslides, and cloudbursts, events that upended daily life and damaged critical infrastructure in the State. Events like these are now part of an unsettling pattern. The return period for such catastrophic weather events is shortening, making them more frequent, and far less predictable.

India recorded 764 major natural disasters since 1900 with almost half of them occurring after 2000. A clear pattern is emerging: climate volatility and global warming are accelerating and with them, scale and complexity of economic disruption.

Between 2019 and 2023 alone, India suffered over $56 billion in losses from weather-related disasters. That's nearly a quarter of all climate losses in the Asia-Pacific during the same period and the highest in South Asia by far.

As extreme events become both more frequent and harder to predict, conventional insurance models need a fundamentally different approach

Parametric insurance offers an alternative built for speed and clarity. It pays out the moment a predefined threshold is breached – rainfall crossing a certain mark, seismic activity above a set magnitude or wind speed crossing destructive limits. Payouts are triggered automatically, based on independently-verified data, and given within hours.

> Parametric cover is finding applications across transportation, manufacturing and even livestock farming where claim delays can lead to financial stress

How it works

At its core, parametric insurance is a simple proposition: it pays out when a pre-agreed index threshold is breached.

These thresholds, such as rainfall below a certain level or temperatures above a critical mark, are based on verified data from sources like the India Meteorological Department, NASA MERRA or other accredited global satellite systems. Everything, from trigger to payout, is defined upfront.

This is finding application across transportation, manufacturing and even livestock farming where claim delays can hugely compound financial stress.

A microfinance institution in Jharkhand, for instance, could structure a parametric policy that automatically covers loan repayments for small farmers if rainfall during the sowing season falls below 300 mm or temperatures cross 40°C.

This would help protect income during weather extremes, without requiring damage inspections.

> Globally, countries in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and even U.K. have used parametric products to cover everything from droughts and floods to cyclone winds

Even in emerging sectors like renewable energy, such insurance has a role to play. A solar power firm operating in Rajasthan can link its policy to solar irradiance data. If sunlight hours drop significantly below expected levels for a given month, payouts will compensate for lost output. When climate-linked disruptions strike, liquidity is needed immediately– to buy seeds, cover interest costs, and quickly restore working capital. Parametric models remove subjectivity and replace it with automation.

Where it's working

Parametric insurance is already being deployed across India and beyond. In parts of Rajasthan and U.P, a pilot protected thousands of women small-holder farmers from drought. It used a water balance index and delivered payouts automatically when water availability dropped below a defined threshold. When sowing conditions fail on rainfall deficits or extreme temperatures, the policy triggers loan support – aiding borrowers avoid defaults and maintain livelihoods. Globally, countries in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and even the U.K. have used parametric products to cover everything from droughts and floods to cyclone winds and flood depths. The examples prove such insurance works across contexts.

What India needs next

Parametric insurance has demonstrated its ability to deliver fast, transparent relief when climate volatility strikes. The building blocks are already in place–robust climate data, digital delivery platforms, and early success stories across agriculture, energy, and disaster-prone geographies. What's needed now is scale – and a clear framework to finance it.

In 2024, Nagaland became the first Indian state to purchase multi-year parametric cover for landslides and extreme rainfall, using disaster mitigation funds. Other States now have the green light to act pre-emptively.

India must treat parametric insurance as essential climate infrastructure, much like UPI did for payments. That means expanding data networks, encouraging State-level adoption, and embedding smart cover into public disaster response. In a future shaped by climate uncertainty, it offers something rare viz. speed, trust and financial resilience when it matters most.

(The writer is co-founder & CBO, Policybazaar for Business)

How about a relatable risk metric?

THINKINVESTOR

AMCs must disclose risk metric in a way we can relate to information provided. The metric must be standardised for comparison among peer equity funds with track record not new fund offers

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Processed foods typically mention saturated and transfat per serving. But how will you know whether, say, 20 gram of saturated fat per 100 gram serving is too much? You could face a similar situation with investment products. In this article, we discuss whether asset management companies (AMCs) can disclose risk associated with their mutual funds as a relatable metric.

Relatable risk

What if we are informed that burning fat from consuming ice cream would require us to walk, say, five kilometers at a speed of six kilometers per hour? That way, we can relate to the effort needed to keep good health and yet enjoy such food.

Can we apply a similar argument to investment products?

There are several issues to consider. For one, individuals have different life goals and different time horizons for the same goal. For another, the impact of a shortfall in a portfolio at the end of the time horizon may be different for everyone. Therefore, presenting a standardised set of information could be challenging when you are investing to achieve a life goal.

Consider large-cap active funds. The riskometer categorises such funds as high risk. But what does that mean when you are investing to finance your child's college education or making down payment for a house? Note that being conservative and not taking risk could also lead to failure of life goals, unless you significantly increase your savings. It will be easier if AMCs disclose a standardised metric in relation to your goal. Suppose you assume that a fund must give 12% annual return (referred to as minimum acceptable return or MAR) to help you achieve your goal. The riskometer could show the frequency during the last 5, 7, 10 years and since inception when the fund gave a return lower than 12%.

That could give a perspective of how risky the fund is in relation to the goal you want to achieve. Note risk is defined as the possibility of earning returns lower than MAR in any year, as that may lead to goal failure. A fund can assume a standardised return regardless of your goals; for MAR is the expected return on equity as an asset class.

Conclusion

AMCs should disclose risk metric in a way we can relate to the information provided. The metric must be standardised for comparison among peer funds. The above argument applies to equity funds with track record, not to new fund offers.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.10	6.35	7.10	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.25	7.25	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.60	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	7.75	8.20
slice Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.40	7.50	8.15	8.40
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.50	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.50	7.25	7.25
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.25	8.00	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
Bandhan Bank	7.40	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.65	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.55	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.40	7.00	7.00	7.00
Federal Bank	6.70	6.40	6.60	6.25
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	6.75	6.30	6.75	6.60
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.60
Karnataka Bank	6.75	6.60	6.25	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.20	7.00	7.20	6.70
SBM Bank India	7.60	7.05	7.05	7.50
South Indian Bank	6.70	6.50	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.05	6.80	6.25	6.25
YES Bank	7.10	6.75	7.10	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.40
Bank of India	6.70	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.70	6.20	6.20	6.10
Canara Bank	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.60	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	6.90	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.75	6.60	6.30	6.30
Punjab National Bank	6.70	6.40	6.40	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.80	6.10	6.00	6.10
State Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.40

Home Loan Interest Rates

(In %)

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70
Bank of Baroda	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.50
Punjab National Bank	7.50-9.35	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25
Bank of India	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.35
Canara Bank	7.50-10.25	7.45-10.25	7.40-10.15
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.35 #	7.35 #	7.35 #
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
ICICI Bank	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
Axis Bank	8.35-11.90	8.35-11.90	8.35-9.35
HSBC Bank	7.70 #	7.70 #	7.70 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86
Federal Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50
Bandhan Bank	8.41-15.00	8.41-12.58	8.41-12.58
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08
HDFC Bank	7.90 #	7.90 #	7.90 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.49 #	7.49 #	7.49 #
Tata Capital	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-11.50	8.25-11.50	8.25-12.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#onwards Rates as on July 23 Source:Paisabazaar.com

MOSCOW

Russia restarts Moscow-Pyongyang passenger flights after decades

AP

Russia launched direct passenger flights from Moscow to Pyongyang, North Korea, for the first time since the mid-1990s, starting on Sunday. Operated by Nordwind Airlines, initial flights will run monthly, using a Boeing 777-200ER. Tickets sold out quickly, boosting Russia-North Korea ties. REUTERS

SURIN

Thailand and Cambodia agree to ceasefire talks after Trump steps in

AFP

Thailand and Cambodia agreed to negotiate after mediation by U.S. President Trump, who warned he would halt trade agreements if fighting continued. Both committed to an immediate ceasefire, with Ministers assigned to coordinate talks. Violence since Thursday killed 33, displaced 1,68,000, and prompted border closures. AP

MANILA

Philippine troops kill 7 guerillas in latest flare-up of insurgency

AP

Philippine troops killed seven communist guerrillas on Sunday in Uson, Masbate, following an earlier clash that killed another two New People's Army guerillas. They seized rifles and launchers while eight rebels fled and are being pursued. Fewer than 900 NPA insurgents remain, with the rebellion said to be collapsing. AP

PORT SUDAN

Sudan's RSF names a civilian PM, presidential council in rival govt.

REUTERS

A coalition led by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Saturday named Mohamed Hassan al-Ta'ayshi, a civilian, Prime Minister and formed a presidential council with RSF leader Dagalo as President, challenging the army-backed government. This deepens Sudan's division amid ongoing war, and stalled peace efforts. AFP

Israel to allow daily pauses in Gaza areas to let aid in

The daily 10-hour pause in military operations will be in Al-Mawasi, Deir al-Balah, and Gaza City; Israel resumes operations elsewhere, saying it must control aid flow to prevent diversion by Hamas

Reuters
JERUSALEM/GAZA

Israel said on Sunday it would halt military operations each day for 10 hours in parts of Gaza and allow new aid corridors in the shattered enclave, where images of hungry Palestinians have alarmed the world.

Military activity will stop from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until further notice in Al-Mawasi, a designated humanitarian area which stretches along the coast, in central Deir al-Balah and in Gaza City, to the north.

The military said designated secure routes for convoys delivering food and medicine will also be in place between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. starting from Sunday.

Dozens of Gazans have died of malnutrition in recent weeks, according to the Gaza Health Ministry in the Hamas-run enclave. A total of 127 people have died due to malnutrition, including 85 children, since the start of the war, the Ministry said.

Walk of hope: Palestinians carry sacks of flour delivered after trucks carrying aid entered northern Gaza on Sunday. AFP

On Saturday, a five-month-old baby, Zainab Abu Haleeb, died of severe acute malnutrition at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, health workers said.

"Three months inside the hospital and this is what I get in return, that she is dead," said her mother, Israa Abu Haleeb, standing next to the baby's father as he held their daughter's body, which was wrapped in a white shroud.

The Egyptian Red Crescent said it was sending on Sunday more than 100 trucks carrying over 1,200 metric tons of food aid to southern Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Hours earlier, Israel began aid airdrops in what it said was an effort to ease the humanitarian conditions in the enclave.

Aid groups said last week there was mass hunger among Gaza's 2.2 million people and international alarm over the humanitarian situation in Gaza has increased, driving French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to recognise a Palestinian state in September.

Israel, which cut off the aid flow to Gaza from the start of March and reopened it with new restrictions in May, says it is committed to allowing in aid but must control it to prevent it from being diverted by militants.

It says it has let enough food into Gaza during the war and blames Hamas for the suffering of Gaza's people.

UN to try to use 'pauses' to reach Gaza's starving

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The United Nations said it would try to reach as many starving people as possible in Gaza after Israel announced it would establish secure land routes in for humanitarian convoys.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said it had enough food in, or on its way to, the region to feed the 2.1 million people in the Gaza Strip for almost three months.

UN emergency relief coordinator Tom Fletcher said on X he welcomed the announcement of "humanitarian pauses".

"In contact with our teams on the ground who will do all we can to reach as many starving people as we can in this window."

Trump confirms deal with EU, sets 15% export tariffs

Agence France-Presse
TURNBERRY

U.S. President Donald Trump and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday announced they had reached a deal to end a transatlantic tariffs standoff and avert a full-blown trade war.

The agreement came as the clock ticked down on an August 1 deadline for the European Union to strike a deal with Washington – or face an across-the-board U.S. levy of 30%.

"We have reached a deal. It's a good deal for everybody," Mr. Trump told reporters following a high-stakes meeting with Ms. von der Leyen at his golf resort in Turnberry, Scotland.

Mr. Trump told reporters the deal involved a baseline levy of 15% on EU exports to the United States.

Atlantic accord: Donald Trump shakes hands with Ursula von der Leyen following their meeting in Turnberry on Sunday. AFP

"We are agreeing that the tariff straight across, for automobiles and everything else, will be a straight across tariff of 15%," Mr. Trump said.

He also said the bloc had agreed to purchase "$750 billion worth of energy" from the United States, as well as $600 billion more in additional investments in the country.

"It's a good deal," the EU chief told reporters, sitting alongside Mr. Trump following their talks.

Separately, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick had said the August 1 deadline was firm and there will be "no extensions, no more grace periods".

SNP wants to bring Palestine statehood Bill, opposes Starmer

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

PM has committed to recognising State of Palestine but says it must be part of a peace process

A minor Opposition party in the British Parliament on Sunday threatened to bring forward legislation on recognising Palestinian statehood and "force a vote" if Prime Minister Keir Starmer continues to oppose the move.

The Scottish National Party (SNP), which pushes for the independence of Scotland, said it would table a "Palestine Recognition Bill" when Parliament returns after its summer recess if Mr. Starmer did not change his position.

The Prime Minister has committed to recognising Palestinian statehood but said it must be part of a peace process in the West Asia.

The SNP threat comes after more than 220 British MPs, including dozens from Mr. Starmer's ruling Labour party, demanded on Friday that the U.K. follow France and recognise a Palestinian state.

The SNP holds nine seats in the 650-seat U.K. Parliament.

34 killed in attack on east Congo church by IS-backed rebels

Associated Press
GOMA

The death toll from an attack on a Catholic church in eastern Congo by Islamic State-backed rebels has risen to 34, according to a civil society leader.

"The bodies of the victims are still at the scene of the tragedy, and volunteers are preparing how to bury them in a mass grave that we are preparing in a compound of the Catholic church," said Dieudonne Duranthabo, a civil society coordinator in Komanda, in the Ituri province.

At least five other people were killed in an earlier attack on the nearby village of Machongani, from where a search is ongoing.

Both attacks are believed to have been carried out by members of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF) armed with guns and machetes.

Eastern Congo has suffered deadly attacks in recent years by armed groups, including the ADF and Rwanda-backed rebels. The ADF, which has ties to the Islamic State, operates in the borderland between Uganda and Congo and often targets civilians. The group killed dozens of people in Ituri earlier this month in what a UN spokesperson described as a bloodbath.

World urgently needs a 'global approach' on AI regulation, insists UN top tech chief

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The world urgently needs to find a global approach on regulating artificial intelligence, the United Nations' top tech chief said this week, warning that fragmentation could deepen risks and inequalities.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin, head of the UN's International Telecommunications Union (ITU) agency, said she hoped that AI "can actually benefit humanity". But as concerns mount over the risks posed by the fast-moving technology – including fears of mass job losses, the spread of deepfakes and disinformation, and society's fabric fraying – she insisted that regulation was key.

"There's an urgency to try to get... the right framework in place," she said, stressing the need for "a global approach".

Her comments came after U.S. President Donald Trump this week unveiled an aggressive, low-regulation strategy aimed at ensuring the United States stays ahead of China on AI.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Among more than 90 proposals, Mr. Trump's plan calls for sweeping deregulation, with the administration promising to "remove red tape and onerous regulation" that could hinder private sector AI development.

Asked if she had concerns about an approach that urges less, not more, regulation of AI technologies, Ms. Bogdan-Martin refrained from commenting, saying she was "still trying to digest" the U.S. plan.

At the same time, she highlighted that "85% of countries don't yet have AI policies or strategies".

RARE FEAT

Gill first to score four Test tons in debut series as skipper

PTI

Shubman Gill became the only player to register four hundreds in his first Test series as captain. He also joined Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar as the only skippers to score four centuries in a series. Bradman did it at home against India in 1947-48, while Gavaskar lit up the 1978-79 home series against the West Indies.

ON A ROLL

Gill joins Gavaskar in 700-run club in a series as India captain

GETTY IMAGES

Shubman Gill is the second India captain after Sunil Gavaskar to notch up 700-plus runs in a Test series. Gavaskar leads the tally with 732 runs against the West Indies in the six-match series in 1978-79 while Gill has 722. Gill is also third behind Gavaskar (774 and 732) among Indians with most number of runs in a series.

CENTURIES GALORE

Washington's hundred takes India's tally to 11 in the England series

PTI

Washington Sundar's hundred in the fourth Test against England was the 11th by an Indian batter, matching the record for most centuries in a Test series (versus West Indies at home in 1978-79). Shubman Gill has scored four, K.L. Rahul and Rishabh Pant two each while Ravindra Jadeja and Yashasvi Jaiswal have one each.

STANDING HIS GROUND

Stokes justifies offer to call off play before the start of final hour

GETTY IMAGES

As soon as they got to a point where a draw was inevitable, I was not going to risk any of our bowlers. We just wanted to get through the period without risking proper bowling options — England captain Ben Stokes justifying his offer to call off play before the start of the final hour.

Steely Washington, Jadeja help India snatch a draw

The two add 203 for the unbroken fifth wicket; Root dropping the latter off the first ball proves to be the turning point; record-breaking Gill registers his fourth hundred of the series

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

The saviours: Gill led the Indian fightback, while Washington and Jadeja mixed caution with aggression to take the team to safety. PTI, GETTY IMAGES & AP

It turned out to be a battle between Bazball and India's grit. In the end, demonstrating an indomitable spirit, India escaped England's Bazball domination with a draw, riding on centuries by Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja.

With England enjoying a 311-run first-innings lead and openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and B. Sai Sudharsan falling for ducks, not many fancied India's chances. But against an England bowling attack that had very little to offer – barring a fiery opening spell by captain Ben Stokes – the middle-order showed steel.

After Jofra Archer pegged India back with the wicket of Gill (103, 238b, 12x4) at the stroke of lunch, Washington (101 n.o. 206b, 9x4, 1x6) and Jadeja (107 n.o. 185b, 13x4, 1x6) batted with conviction to add 203 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket. India defined its character by saving the Test and keeping the series alive. The teams head into The Oval for the final Test, with the home side leading 2-1.

Buried under a mountain of runs, it was an uphill task, but with Jadeja making the most of a first-ball reprieve, and taking control of the proceedings, the England bowlers struggled.

In two wicket-less sessions, India capitalised on England's sloppy fielding as Washington and Jadeja forged the team's 10th century partnership in four Tests – the second-most for the side in a series, after 11 against the West Indies in 1978-79.

Starting the second session, Archer extracted uneven bounce on a few occasions, but both Jadeja and Washington remained unfazed.

After Gill and K.L. Rahul started the Indian fightback, with a 188-run stand for the third wicket, Washington and Jadeja kept the momentum going. England, on the other hand, failed to convert the half-chances.

There was no dearth of drama at Old Trafford, a venue where England had drawn a Test only once in Bazball era in 2023. Midway into the third session, Stokes walked up to Jadeja and Washington hoping to shake hands. But with both inching closer to the three-figure mark, the two decided to bat on. Eventually, the teams settled for a draw after Washington got his maiden ton.

While Washington and Jadeja dominated the last two sessions, the morning belonged to Gill. After their dogged stand helped India overcome a crisis, Gill and Rahul extended their cautious approach, as Liam Dawson started the day from one end and Stokes, despite writhing in pain, bowled from the other.

Overcoming early disappointments, Stokes exploited the uneven nature of the surface and trapped Rahul in front to break the stand. The Indian think tank promoted Washington to No. 5 and it proved to be a masterstroke.

Gill showed resolve despite being hit on the forefinger of the bottom hand by a Stokes delivery that rose sharply. Playing each ball on its merit, Gill ticked along and seemed to be in no hurry as he brought up his ninth Test century and fourth of the series. On the way, he became the first player to hit four hundreds in a debut Test series as captain, going past Warwick Armstrong, Don Bradman, Greg Chappell, Virat Kohli and Steven Smith, who scored three each.

Gill looked set to extend his tally before being caught off Archer. And as Root put down a catch at first slip off the very next delivery, Jadeja survived to script India's comeback story with Washington.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
358 in 114.1 overs
ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
669 in 157.1 overs
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Root b Woakes 0 (*4b*), K.L. Rahul lbw b Stokes 90 (*230b, 8x4*), B. Sai Sudharsan c Brook b Woakes 0 (*1b*), Shubman Gill c Smith b Archer 103 (*238b, 12x4*), Washington Sundar (not out) 101 (*206b, 9x4, 1x6*), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 107 (*185b, 13x4, 1x6*); Extras (b-14, lb-2, nb-6, w-2): 24; Total (for four wkts. in 143 overs): 425.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.4 overs), 2-0 (Sai Sudharsan, 0.5), 3-188 (Rahul, 70.2), 4-222 (Gill, 87.4).
ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 23-4-67-2, Archer 23-3-78-1, Carse 17-3-44-0, Dawson 47-11-95-0, Root 19-2-68-0, Stokes 11-2-33-1, Brook 3-0-24-0.
PoM: Ben Stokes.
Match drawn. England leads five-match series 2-1.
Fifth and final Test: July 31 to August 4, The Oval.
Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.

Guys showed a lot of character: Gambhir

Bravehearts: Pant and Jadeja produced gutsy performances in the drawn game. GETTY IMAGES

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Head coach Gautam Gambhir stated that past records don't matter for the Indian team.

"They are making their own history. A lot of people wrote us off in this Test, but this is the foundation of this team. These are characters who are sitting in this dressing room, wanting to fight for the country," Gambhir said.

"I don't believe that the team is in transition, because it's still an Indian team. And this is the best 18 that is going to represent, and more importantly, it's not a transition, it's just a little bit of inexperience," Gambhir said.

"It's only about experience and inexperience. But the most important thing is that these boys are going to learn a lot from what they did, because being under pressure and then batting for five sessions is never easy, especially on a fifth day pitch," Gambhir said. "We've to give it to the guys for the character they showed".

SNAPSHOTS

Pogacar wins fourth Tour de France title

PARIS: Slovenian Tadej Pogacar won his fourth Tour de France title after finishing safe in the final stage won by Belgian Wout van Aert on Sunday. Two-time champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark took second place overall with German Florian Lipowitz finishing third.

Tilak to lead South in Duleep Trophy

CHENNAI: Tilak Varma will lead South Zone in the Duleep Trophy tournament that starts on August 28 at Bengaluru. The South Zone selectors have picked a 16-member squad along with six standby players.
The squad: Tilak Varma (Capt.), Mohd. Azharuddeen (Vice-Capt.), Tanmay Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohit Kale, Salman Nizar, N. Jagadeesan, T. Vijay, R. Sai Kishore, Tanay Thyagarajan, V. Vyshak, M.D. Nidheesh, Ricky Bhui, N.P. Basil, Gurjapneet Singh, Snehal Kauthankar.
Standbys: Mohit Redkar, R. Smaran, Ankit Sharma, Eden Apple Tom, Andre Siddarth, Shaikh Rasheed.

Ready for shootout: Divya and Humpy have all to play for. FIDE

Divya and Humpy head to a tiebreaker

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BATUMI

International Master Divya Deshmukh held the higher-ranked Grandmaster Koneru Humpy to a draw in the second game on Sunday, taking the FIDE women's World Cup final to a tiebreaker where games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

The tie-breaker, which will be a series of shorter-duration games, will be played on Monday to determine the winner.

Divya, who did not make utmost use of her promising opening in the first game of the match, was far more composed against a Queen pawn opening and faced little trouble playing with black.

During the post-game interaction with the broadcaster, Divya seemed upset with the mistakes she made in game one, where she said she invariably kept making the wrong choices.

China's Tan Zhongyi clinched the second game against Lei Tingjie to win the match 1.5-0.5, claim the bronze medal and secure a spot in the Candidates tournament.

Piastri wins Belgian GP

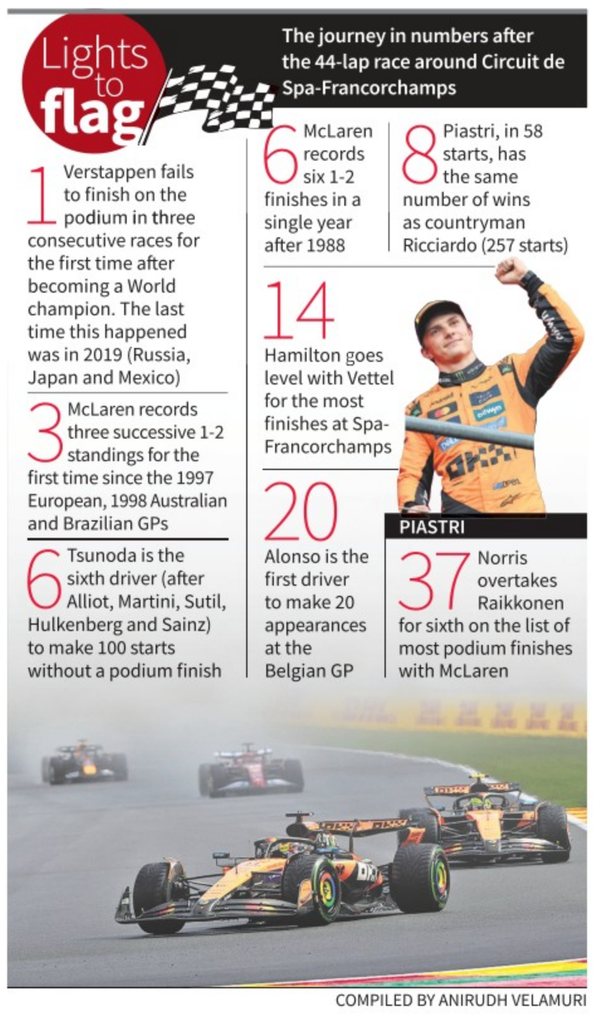
FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Oscar Piastri held off McLaren teammate Lando Norris to win the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday and stretch his lead over the latter to 16 points.

The results: 1. Piastri (McLaren) 1h:25m:22.601s, 2. Norris (McLaren) +3.415s, 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) 20.185, 4. Verstappen (Red Bull) 21.731, 5. Russell (Mercedes) 34.863, 6. Albon (Williams) 39.926, 7. Hamilton (Ferrari) 40.679, 8. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 52.033, 9. Borteleto (Kick Sauber) 56.434.
10. Gasly (Alpine) 72.714, 11. Bearman (Haas) 73.145, 12. Hulkenberg (Kick Sauber) 73.628, 13. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 75.395, 14. Stroll (Aston Martin) 79.831, 15. Ocon (Alpine) 86.063, 16. Antonelli (Mercedes) 86.721, 17. Alonso (Aston Martin) 87.924, 18. Sainz (Williams) 92.024, 19. Colapinto (Alpine) 95.250;
+1 lap: 20. Hadjar (Racing Bulls).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastri 266, 2. Norris 250, 3. Verstappen 185.**Constructors:** 1. McLaren 516, 2. Ferrari 248, 3. Mercedes 220.



COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

INBRIEF

Australia wins another high-scoring match

Cameron Green hit an unbeaten 55 and Josh Inglis smashed 51 to lift Australia to a three-wicket win over the West Indies in the fourth T20I at Basseterre on Saturday. Glenn Maxwell, *in pic*, scored 47 runs off 18 balls. The Aussies have a 4-0 lead in the five-match series.

The scores: West Indies 205/9 in 20 overs (Sherfane Rutherford 31, Adam Zampa 3/54) lost to Australia 206/7 in 19.2 overs (Glenn Maxwell 47, Josh Inglis 51, Cameron Green 55 n.o., Jediah Blades 3/29). **Toss:** Australia; **PoM:** Maxwell.

Bhavani Devi bows out of individual sabre event

C.A. Bhavani Devi's campaign in the women's individual sabre at the World fencing championships in Tbilisi (Georgia) ended on Sunday in the round-of-64, when the 31-year-old lost to Japan's Misaki Emura 15-10.

Singles titles for Shi and Wang at China Open badminton

Shi Yuqi surged to victory in the China Open men's singles final on Sunday, bouncing back from a game down to beat Wang Zhengxing 14-21, 21-14, 21-15. The women's singles title decider, which also featured two Chinese players, saw second-ranked China's Wang Zhiyi defeat No. 4 Han Yue 21-8, 21-13. "The impact, speed and strength of younger players are definitely better than mine," said 29-year-old Shi after beating the 23-year-old Wang. "So I can only say that I tried my best to withstand some of his speed." It was Shi's second such win in the prestigious competition.

India loses to Italy in the Rod Laver Junior Challenge

The Indian team was beaten 2-4 by Italy in the opening match of the IC Rod Laver Junior Challenge tennis event in Barcelona. Aradhya Kshitij and Samarth Sahita won their matches while Saanvi Mishra and Rishitha Basireddy lost in straight sets. The Indian boys' and girls' combinations, too, suffered a reverse.

Nehra and Likhith fail to progress at swimming Worlds

India's Aryan Nehra fell short of qualifying for the final while S.P. Likhith failed to make the semifinals at the World aquatics championships in Singapore on Sunday. In 400m freestyle, Nehra finished seventh in his heat and 37th overall in 4:00.39. Likhith clocked 1:01.99 to finish 40th overall in 100m breaststroke event.

Youngsters Dipanshu and Deepika impress amid a slew of absentees

More than 900 athletes had sent in their entries, but the number of participants who actually turned up was much less

ATHLETICS

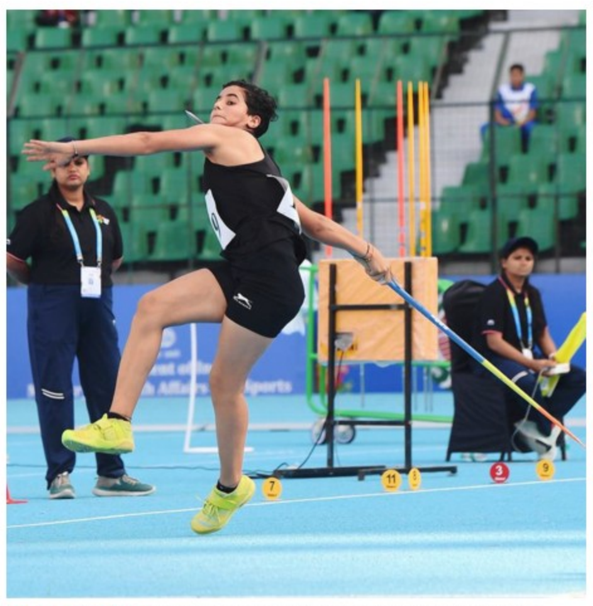
Sports Bureau

Dipanshu Sharma returned to winning ways at the site of his best performance this year, improving his personal best to win the men's javelin throw on day one of the Indian Open athletics championships in Sangrur on Sunday.

Junior National record holder Deepika improved her own mark and set a new junior record with a 56.41m throw in women's javelin.

The 19-year-old Dipanshu's 76.03m throw bettered his previous best – set at the previous iteration of Indian Open at the same venue in April this year – by a metre. The result also helped Dipanshu return to the Under-20 top-three in the world for the year. It was one of the few highlights of the day, as several prominent names failed to turn up.

Dipanshu. RF MEDIA



Flinging it far: Deepika improved her own mark and set a new junior record with a 56.41m throw in javelin. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Shivam Lokhare, the newest entrant to the 80m club, and Kishore Kumar Jena both did not participate although, interestingly, Jena's former coach Samarjeet Singh Malhi was among the participants.

More than 900 athletes had sent in their entries, forcing the organisers to make the Indian Open a two-day event, but the number of participants who actually turned up was much less.

The 100m had 14 races with Army's Rohit Gorkha clocking 10.49 seconds to be the surprise fastest while Uttarakhand's Prakhar Sharma won the 400m in 47.24 seconds across 12 races.

The men's 5000m, with 31 initial entries, saw only 11 runners complete and 13, including former champion Abhishek Pal and National Games gold medallist Sawan Barwal, not starting. Anurag Yadav of Gujarat won in 14:33.61.

Among the women, Dhanalakshmi and M.V. Jilna – both former India sprinters and returning from doping suspension – were the only two to go under 12 seconds in the 100m across six races, Dhanalakshmi edging ahead in 11.55 seconds.

Race B saw only three legal finishes, with three disqualifications and Nithya Ramraj not starting.

Himachal Pradesh's Manisha Kumari bettered her personal best by more than a second to win the 400m in 53.81 seconds

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Rohit Gorkha (Army, 10.49s), **400m:** Prakhar Sharma (Utk, 47.24s), **1500m:** Rahul (Del, 3:47.47), **5000m:** Anurag Yadav (Guj, 14:33.61), **High Jump:** Sarvesh Kushare (Mah, 2.26m), **Discus:** Kirpal Singh (ONGC, 54.65m), **Javelin:** Dipanshu Sharma (Reliance, 76.03m).

Women: 100m: Dhanalakshmi (TN, 11.55s), **400m:** Manisha Kumari (HP, 53.81s), **1500m:** Lili Das (Utk, 4:17.48), **High Jump:** Khyati Mathur (UP, 1.76m), **Discus:** Seema (JSW, 55.03m), **Javelin:** Deepika (JSW, 56.41m).

Ankita clinches women's 3000m steeplechase silver

Final burst: Ankita's push at the end saw her finish a few milliseconds behind Finland's Ilona Maaria. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Press Trust of India
ESSEN (GERMANY)

Steeplechaser Ankita Dhyani came up with a blistering run to clinch silver in the gruelling 3000m event with a personal-best time of 9:31.99 seconds, as Indian athletes ended their campaign in the World University Games on Sunday.

The men's 4x100m relay quartet bagged a bronze while the trio of Munita Prajapati, Mansi Negi, and Sejal Singh finished third in the women's 20km team racewalk.

India ended its campaign with two gold, five silver and five bronze in the showpiece event.

Ankita shaved nearly seven seconds from her personal best 9:39.00s to finish behind Finland's Ilona Maaria Mononen (9:31.86). Adia Budde of Germany took bronze in 9:33.34s.

On Friday, Ankita topped Heat 1 in 9:54.79s to secure her place in the final. A massive 22-second improvement, then propelled Ankita to silver.

The men's 4x100m relay team of Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Mrutyam Jayaram won bronze in 38.89s behind South Korea (38.50s) and South Africa (38.80s).

Praveen Chitravel.

Earlier on Saturday, Praveen Chithravel secured a silver medal in the men's triple jump. His best effort of 16.66m on his second attempt saw him finish behind Australia's Olympian Connor Murphy (16.77m).

India's medal winners:
Silver: Praveen Chithravel (men's triple jump), Ankita Dhyani (women's 3000m steeplechase).
Bronze: Sejal Singh, Munita Prajapati, Mansi Negi (women's 20km racewalk team), men's 4x100m relay.

Aryan loses to Varona in semifinals

Sports Bureau

Aryan Shah lost 5-7, 6-2, 3-6 to Nicolas Varona of Spain in the semifinals of the €91,250 Challenger tennis in Segovia, Spain. The 19-year-old Aryan won 22 ATP points and €4,550.

Other results: $100,000 ITF women, Evansville, USA: Doubles: Semifinals: Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Alana Smith (USA) & Kayla Cross (Can) 6-4, 7-5.
$30,000 ITF women, Monastir: Doubles: Final: Tenika Mcgiffin (Aus) & Elza Tomase (Lat) bt Dayeon Back (Kor) & Vaidehi Chaudhari 3-6, 6-3, [10-8].
$15,000 ITF women, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain: Doubles: Final: Victoria Allen (GBR) & Angelina Wirges (GEr) bt Emma Kamper (Den) & Sravya Shivani 6-1, 2-6, [10-6].

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Australia: 5th T20I, 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Rich haul: The Indian paddlers won 11 medals — two gold, two silver and seven bronze — in Almaty. X@ULTTABLETENNIS

Gold for Divyanshi and Priyanuj in WTT Youth Contender

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Fresh from her U-15 gold medal at the Asian youth table tennis championships at Tashkent recently, Divyanshi Bhowmick claimed the U-19 girls' title at the WTT Youth Contender in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on Saturday.

She overcame Zlata Terekhova of the Russian Federation 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 11-2 in the final.

In an all-Indian U-17 boys' final, Priyanuj Bhattacharyya rallied to beat P. B. Abhinandh 8-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-6.

In the U-15 girls' final, Ananya Muralidharan lost 8-11, 8-11, 8-11 to Lu Yu-En of Taiwan.

India wrapped up the Almaty event with a total of 11 medals – two gold, two silver, and seven bronze.

It's Ashoka vs. Lashka in the first division of Anab E Shahi Plate

RACES

HYDERABAD: Ashoka and Lashka may fight out the finish of the Anab E Shahi Plate (Div. I), the main event of Monday's (July 28) races.

1 KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 12.35 p.m.: 1. Equine Power (7) P. Sai K 56, 2. Real Thalaivaa (5) Mohit 56, 3. State Man (1) Mukesh K 56, 4. Yuvraj (6) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 5. Divine Secret (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Emerald Touch (10) S. Shareef 54.5, 7. Live Legend (9) Gaurav 54.5, 8. Shreshtha (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 9. Tootsie Darling (4) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Tsarina (8) Afroz K 54.5.
1. TOOTSIE DARLING, 2. REAL THALAIVAA, 3. DIVINE SECRET

2 P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.05: 1. Diablo (5) P. Sai K 60, 2. Trishul (7) Surya Prakash 58.5, 3. Mix The Magic (9) B. Nikhil 56.5, 4. Miss Marvellous (3) Shivansh 55.5, 5. Clara (8) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 6. Clefairy (2) A.A. Vikrant 54, 7. Ampere's Touch (6) G. Naresh 53.5, 8. Briar Ridge (1) Kuldeep Jr. 53.5 and 9. Miss Smiley Angel (4) Mukesh K 52.5.
1. DIABLO, 2. MIX THE MAGIC, 3. CLEFAIRY

3 HYDERABAD PLATE (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o and upward (Cat. II), 1.35: 1. Berrettini (4) P. Sai K 60, 2. Maverick (3) Santosh Raj 60, 3. Proud Mary (6) Gaurav 58.5, 4. Reigning Beauty (2) Afroz K 58.5, 5. Armstrong (1) A.A. Vikrant 58 and 6. Sopranos (5) Md. Ismail 58.
1. BERRETTINI, 2. MAVERICK

4 ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 2.05: 1. High Command (7) Kuldeep Jr. 62.5, 2. Siddharth (1) Trevor 59.5, 3. Black Onyx (8) Mukesh 58, 4. One N Only (4) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 5. Shadow Of The Moon (5) Afroz K 54, 6. Vivaldo (2) Hindu Singh 53, 7. Star Of Night (3) Ajay K 50 and 8. Lucky Zone (6) Surya Prakash 50.
1. HIGH COMMAND, 2. SIDDHARTH, 3. ONE N ONLY

5 BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Top In Class (6) Mukesh K 60, 2. Assured Success (4) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 3. Mark My Day (1) R.S. Jodha 59, 4. Swiss Girl (2) Md. Ismail 57.5, 5. Fashion Icon (11) G. Naresh 57, 6. Federer (8) P. Ajeeth K 57, 7. Star Cruise (9) Kuldeep Jr. 57, 8. Char Ek Char (3) A.A. Vikrant 56, 9. Classy Dame (10) Abhay Singh 55, 10. Glimmer Of Hope (12) Gaurav 55, 11. Muaser (7) H.M. Akshay 51.5 and 12. Battle On (5) P. Sai K 51.
1. FASHION ICON, 2. BATTLE ON, 3. FEDERER

6 P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. True Icon (9) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Just Incredible (6) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 3. Oliver's Mount (2) Shivansh 56, 4. Cherie Chevalier (5) Suraj Narredu 55.5, 5. Newfound Glory (8) Ajay K 54.5, 6. Krystallos (4) Ashad Asbar 53, 7. Colt Pistol (1) Sonu K 52.5, 8. Catchme If You Can (7) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 9. Juramento (3) Surya Prakash 51.
1. CHERIE CHEVALIER, 2. KRYSTALLOS, 3. OLIVER'S MOUNT

7 ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 3.50: 1. Ashoka (5) Mukesh K 63, 2. Akido (7) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 3. Last Wish (3) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 4. Lashka (6) Trevor 54, 5. Ode To Nature (1) Mohit 54, 6. N R I Superpower (9) Varun 53.5, 7. Minecraft (8) Rafique Sk. 50.5, 8. Silver Act (2) B. Nikhil 50 and 9. Baisa (4) Nakhat 50.
1. ASHOKA, 2. LASHKA, 3. N R I SUPERPOWER

8 FALAKNUMA CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.25: 1. Quality Warrior (3) Shivansh 60, 2. Divine Destiny (5) Kuldeep Jr. 58.5, 3. Racing Ruler (7) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Alpine Girl (10) Sonu K 57.5, 5. Perfect Light (4) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 6. Path Of Peace (6) Surya Prakash 57, 7. Elegant Lady (1) Rafique Sk. 54, 8. Peppi (2) Ashad Asbar 54, 9. London Bell (9) Md. Ekram 53.5 and 10. Take A Breath (8) H.M. Akshay 51.
1. RACING RULER, 2. ELEGANT LADY, 3. PEPPI

9 BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Inderdhanush (9) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Sangreal (13) Suraj Narredu 59.5, 3. Cosmico (12) Mukesh K 59, 4. Sucker Punch (2) H.M. Akshay 59, 5. Power Ranger (1) Md. Ekram 58.5, 6. Hoping Star (6) Mohit 57.5, 7. Only The Brave (4) Shivansh 57.5, 8. Alcahol Free (7) Rafique Sk. 56, 9. Blue Pantheress (8) Sonu K 55.5, 10. Eminency (10) Nakhat 55, 11. Exclusive Luck (5) Hindu Singh 53.5, 12. Dali's Champion (11) Surya Prakash 53 and 13. Sadiya (3) Kuldeep Jr. 52.
1. SANGREAL, 2. EXCLUSIVE LUCK, 3. COSMICO

Day's Best: **SANGREAL**

Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 3, 4, 5 & 6, (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7,8 & 9.

Tanala: All races.

Mayne Magic wins the main event

BENGALURU: K. Kishan Thomas-trained Mayne Magic (Antony up) won the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races here on Sunday (July 27). The winner is owned by Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Jockey Antony won three races on the day.

1. LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (1,200M): MEGHANN (Laxman S) 1, Embosom (G. Vivek) 2, Phoenix Surprise (Pavan) 3 and Princess Jasmine (Suhas K) 4. Not run: N R I Millennium. 3-3/4, Nk and 1. 1m, 16.19s. ₹107 (w), 23, 13 and 39 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 112, FP: 664, Q: 341, Trinella: 9,103/4,876, Exacta: 62,496 (carried over)/13,392. Favourite: Chinky Pinky. Owner and trainer: Mr. Warren Singh.

2. CAMINETO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): ROYAL DECCAN (Antony) 1, Roadrunner (Abhishek Mhatre) 2, Equalizer (M. Rajesh K) 3 and Cascais (Trevor) 4. 6-1/2, 1 and Snk. 1m, 14.70s. ₹42 (w), 16, 24 and 17 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 41, FP: 313, Q: 160, Trinella: 5,679/1,872, Exacta: 17,705/5,836. Favourite: Silicon Star. Owners: Mr. Arjun Mangalorkar, M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran & Mr. Vivek N. Rao. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. ESQUIRE PLATE (1,200M): ROMPING HOME (Yash) 1, Konkrah (Sandesh) 2, Solara (Akshay K) 3 and Zephyrine (Arvind K) 4. 7, 2 and 1. 1m. 13.14s. ₹17 (w), 13, 16 and 40 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 74, FP: 63, Q: 49, Trinella: 382/286, Exacta: 1,891/599. Favourite: Romping Home. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Hatim A Lakdawala, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Deepesh Narredu.

4. SALAZAAR PLATE (1,200M): EXCELLENT LASS (Suraj) 1, Never Give In (Antony) 2, Victoria Doresaani (Sandesh) 3 and Grizzly (Laxman S) 4. 2, 3/4 and Snk. 1m 13.54s. ₹19 (w), 16, 18 and 18 (p), SHP; 50, THP: 68, FP: 108, Q: 89, Trinella: 453/164, Exacta: 9,159/2,944. Favourite: Excellent Lass. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

5. ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,400M): POWER OF BEAUTY (Antony) 1, Sir Winston (Neeraj) 2, Elfin Knight (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Stravinsky (Angad) 4. Not run: Sensational and Pole Star. Shd, 2-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 26.94s. ₹34 (w), 12, 14 and 13 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 31, FP: 263, Q: 177, Trinella: 1,254/516, Exacta: 2,980/1,277. Favourite: Circle Of Dreams. Owners: Dr. C.N. Devayya & Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

6. KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600M): MAYNE MAGIC (Antony) 1, Galahad (Trevor) 2, Prana (Suraj) 3 and Monteverdi (Neeraj) 4. 1, 3 and 3-1/4. 1m, 39.00s. ₹24 (w), 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 26, FP: 117, Q: 54, Trinella: 85/25. Favourite: Prana. Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: K. Kishan Thomas.

7. CAMINETO PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): ELEANORA (Suraj) 1, Mutual Trust (Trevor) 2, True Punch (Antony) 3 and Carat Love (G. Vivek) 4. 2, 3 and 2-1/4. 1m, 14.18s. ₹34 (w), 16, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 43, FP: 76, Q: 34, Trinella: 161/193, Exacta: 537/230. Favourite: Mutual Trust. Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Mr. Rishad N. Pandole. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

Jackpot: ₹1,662 (367 tkts.); Runner-up: 144 (1,816 tkts.); Treble (i): 154 (74 tkts.); (ii): 285 (56 tkts.).

Daniel's hat-trick in vain as IAF FT holds South United

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Indian Air Force Football Team produced an equaliser in the final minute of added time to hold tournament debutant South United FC 3-3 in a Group-A league match of the 134th Durand Cup at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Sunday.

Young striker Makakmayum Daniel completed a fine hat-trick giving South United the lead twice in the match but IAF mounted a great fightback to snatch a point in the end.

The 18-year-old Daniel found the target in the ninth and 23rd minutes before Mohammad Aqib (26th minute) and Akish Cyril (48th) got IAF back in the mix.

Daniel completed his hat-trick in the 84th minute with a spectacular volley but IAF defender Sankit nodded home the equaliser to spoil South United's party.

Earlier, debutant Indo Tibetan Border Police Football Team (ITBP FT) edged past a 10-man local side Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 2-1 in the Group-D league opener at the SAI Stadium, Kokrajhar.

Lunminlen Haokip gave Morning Star the lead but ITBP FT fought back well and scored twice through Pulung Diamary and Hemraj Bhujel to secure the win.

Fight for possession: South United players try to thwart an Indian Air Force move. DEBASISH BHADURI

The results: Group-A: South United FC 3 (Makakmayum Daniel 9, 23, 84) drew with Indian Air Force FT 3 (Md. Aqib 26, Akish Cyril 48, Sankit 90+6).

At Kokrajhar: Group-D: ITBP FT 2 (Pulung Daimary 45, Hemraj Bhujel 60) bt Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 1 (Lunminlen Haokip 30).